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Japan

Tokyo To Oppose Rice Inclusion in GATT Plan

OW2011180792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1746 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 21 KYODO—Japan will strive to avoid an inclusion of rice in a GATT plan to convert all nontariff agricultural import barriers into custom duties, a senior Farm Ministry official said Saturday. The official of the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry made the comment after the United States and the European Community reached agreement on farm subsidies.

Under the draft advanced by Arthur Dunkel, director general of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), tariff rates for imported farm products will be cut by an average 36 percent over seven years and export subsidies will be reduced by 24 percent over the same period.

Japanese officials have argued that American and EC export subsidies have blocked progress in the Uruguay Round of global trade liberalization talks. Japan maintains a near total ban on rice imports.

EC sources in Brussels said the agreement between the U.S. and the EC would help set the stage for a successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round, launched in Uruguay in the fall of 1986.

Miyazawa Hails U.S.-EC Agricultural Accord

OW2111034892 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 21 Nov 92

[From the "NHK News" program—read by announcer]

[Text] Japan will have to make a serious decision on opening its rice market in light of the agricultural accord just reached between the United States and the EC.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa spoke highly of the accord, telling reporters that this will hopefully lead to overall development at the Uruguay round of talks. On opening the rice market, he said that he feels that Japan will maintain the position expressed at the multilateral talks and reject the proposal for tarrification without exceptions.

Masami Tanabu, minister of agriculture, forestry, and fisheries, told an informal gathering that it will be necessary at the multilateral talks to discuss sufficiently difficult problems involving countries other than the United States and the EC and then work out realistic solutions. He also said that our country, for its part, will try to have the ideas we have so far advocated included in the general agreement, reiterating his view that at the multilateral talks Japan will request that the rice issue be dealt with as an exception to the tarrification plan.

More Reaction to U.S.-EC Agricultural Accord

OW2111133592 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 21 Nov 92

[From "the NHK News" program]

[Text] Japanese farmers' groups strongly oppose the latest agreement [between the United States and the EC on agricultural issues]. Teruhiko Ishikura, managing director of the Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives, has said: Our farmers cannot approve the way of extending the agreement between the few exporting countries to an agreement for all GATT member nations. He added: It is quite obvious that the United States and the EC, which have increased agricultural subsidies year after year instead of withdrawing them, are trying to impose one-sided sacrifices on the importing nations in order to form the general agreement solely for their interests. He said that this must not be approved.

A farmer in Sendai City said that Japanese farmers are losing their zeal for agriculture as the rice prices continue to fall under the current agricultural policy. He added that the future of Japanese agriculture is now uncertain in view of the latest accord between the United States and the EC. A farmer in Hokkaido said that the Diet has adopted the two resolutions on opposing the opening of the rice market, and many Diet members oppose the liberalization of the rice market. Thus, he called on the Japanese Government to take a position of attaching greater importance to the Diet resolutions.

Keidanren Chairman Views Accord

OW2211010092 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 21 Nov 92

[From "the NHK News" program]

[Text] Concerning the economic accord reached between the United States and the European Community, Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of Keidanren [Federation of Economic Organizations of Japan], said the followings:

[Begin Hiraiwa recording] We in the business circles have long wanted an early settlement of trade talks within the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. With this accord, I hope that the Japanese Government will handle this issue promptly and adequately. However, since the agricultural issue centered on rice is an important issue for Japan, I hope that the government will give full consideration to farmers and others involved when it decides on this matter, and it should take pains not to leave problems for the future. [end recording]

Tokyo Split Over GATT Resumption of Talks

OW2211074892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0725 GMT 22 Nov 92

[Text] Geneva, Nov. 22 KYODO—The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) will relaunch multilateral negotiations for freer world trade soon in hopes of bringing the Uruguay Round talks to a conclusion by year's end, GATT officials said Sunday.

The resumption of negotiations follows Friday's settlement of a long-running farm subsidy dispute between the United States and the European Community (EC).

Arthur Dunkel, GATT director general, is expected to call a meeting of the Trade Negotiations Committee, which oversees the 108-nation trade talks, as soon as possible and to come up with a work schedule for the conclusion of six-year-old Uruguay Round.

The global trade talks, launched in 1986, already have run two years longer than expected because of the U.S.-EC farm dispute.

Final and concentrated negotiations will be conducted on the issues of agriculture, services and market access.

In the farm sector, Japan's effective ban on rice imports will figure high in the discussion, diplomatic sources in Geneva said.

In Tokyo, analysts believe the Japanese Government will be forced to make a "political decision" on the matter as early as late this year.

Dunkel last December called for converting nontariff trade barriers to tariffs, with the tariffs to be lowered in stages over the next six years, a process called tariffication.

During a visit to Tokyo in late August, he called on Japan to accept the proposal on the grounds that tariffication would not necessarily lead to increased imports of rice.

Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, commenting on Friday's U.S.-EC accord on the farm subsidy issue, reiterated Tokyo's stance of keeping its ban on rice imports.

Analysts say, however, Japan will come under strong criticism from abroad should the Uruguay Round negotiations fail due to Tokyo's vehement refusal to accept the tariffication proposal.

"Among industrialized countries, Japan is best placed to benefit from an accord on freer world trade," one analyst said, noting its swelling trade surplus with the rest of the world.

Hence, Japan would have little choice but to accept the proposal, he said.

One senior official at the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries said: "The Cairns Group of farm producers won't accept the U.S.-EC accord. Since the U.S.-EC talks took about 10 months, we hope to be given enough time to discuss the revision of the proposed across-the-board tariffication."

The number of countries opposing the tariffication proposal is limited to about six, such as Japan, South Korea and Canada.

Within the government, the Foreign Ministry and the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) are likely to suggest that Japan should make concessions to bring the Uruguay Round to a successful conclusion, analysts say.

On the other hand, Japanese rice growers are expected to urge the government and the ruling Liberal Democratic Party to keep the rice import ban. The LDP depends heavily on the farm vote.

Under the circumstances, it is still uncertain whether Japan will hold fast to its policy in the upcoming negotiations on the tariffication proposal, analysts say.

Miyazawa Comments on Yeltsin's Security Proposal

OW2011030192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0250 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 20 KYODO—Japanese leaders said Friday that Russian President Boris Yeltsin's proposal to establish a multinational security consultative body in Asia was too vague to evaluate, but expressed interest in learning more details.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa told reporters Yeltsin's proposal is "not bad, but it lacks concreteness."

In a speech to South Korea's parliament Thursday, Yeltsin suggested Asian nations should launch working-level councils to address topics such as arms reduction, and later set up a multinational body.

The Russian president also offered to reduce strategic and other weapons deployed in Asia.

Yeltsin did not specify which countries should be included in the forums.

Miyazawa in a speech last month made a similar call when he proposed that the United States and other Asia-Pacific nations consider a framework to address regional security issues. Miyazawa did not explain particulars at the time.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato told a regularly scheduled news conference Friday that Yeltsin's proposal indicates that Russia wants to "engage in a constructive partnership with the Asia-Pacific."

Japan plans to seek clarification of Yeltsin's proposals via diplomatic channels, Kato said.

Kato also welcomed Yeltsin's comment that Russian-Japanese relations are not stalemated, but said that he does not regard prospects for rescheduling Yeltsin's aborted visit here to have improved.

Russian sources traveling with Yeltsin said Thursday that the presidential visit may be rescheduled for early next year.

Kato said that domestic constraints that caused Yeltsin to abruptly cancel a planned mid-September visit to Japan are unchanged.

Yeltsin cited domestic difficulties when he called off the visit at the last minute.

He later suggested his decision was due to Japan's inflexibility on a long-standing territorial dispute involving four islands off Hokkaido seized by the former Soviet Union at the end of World War II.

Five Ex-Soviet Republics Included in OECD Aid

OW2111005392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0016 GMT 21 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 21 KYODO—Five central Asian republics of the former Soviet Union were made eligible for full-fledged economic assistance Friday under an agreement between 18 donor countries of the Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Foreign Ministry officials said Saturday.

Officials said that at Japan's initiative the five republics of Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, and Kazakhstan will be added to the OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC) list of aid-eligible countries from January 1993.

At the same time, they said, it was agreed that six countries—Singapore, Brunei, Bahamas, Kuwait, Qatar and United Arab Emirates—should be dropped from the DAC list after January 1996 in light of their high levels of income.

Officials said the move helps pave the way for Japan's extension of Official Development Assistance (ODA) to the five central Asian republics.

Sources said Japan had campaigned for their inclusion in the DAC list, partly to serve as an incentive for neighboring Russia to return a group of bilaterally disputed islands it has occupied since the end of World War II. Japan has refused full-scale economic aid to Russia pending a territorial settlement over the islands.

Officials said countries to be dropped from the list would continue to be eligible for technical assistance out of Japan's ODA budget on a case-by-case basis. They would not, however, be eligible for ODA loans and, indeed, do not receive them now.

The officials said Japan would send a mission to the five ex-Soviet central Asian countries next spring to survey their assistance needs.

Initial Japanese aid would be primarily in the form of technical assistance, though one or two of them may be eligible for loan assistance, they said.

Japan has already pledged to invite a total of 300 engineers and experts from the five republics to Japan over a three-year period.

Officials said the issue of what other countries to add to or drop from the DAC list will be undertaken as part of a comprehensive review planned by the donor countries, though they declined to specify the timing and criteria.

The addition of the five countries to the list brings the current total to 166 countries.

Over the past decade, Spain withdrew itself from the list in 1983 and Portugal in 1991. Albania was added in 1989.

As a general rule, Japan holds that recipients of its ODA must be on the DAC list. But it has made an exception to that rule in the case of East European countries and has been extending loans and other types of aid to the region out of its ODA budget.

Firms Scramble for China's Petrochemical Projects

OW2111092692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0733 GMT 21 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 21 KYODO—Japanese and other foreign enterprises are scrambling for petrochemical projects in China amid a slump in their domestic markets, trading house sources said Saturday.

The sources said demand for petrochemical products has grown along with a high-pitched economic growth in China with a population of 1.1 billion.

New petrochemical projects are under way in Heizhou, Guandong Province, and Yingkou, Liaoning Province, while other facilities are undergoing expansion, they said.

Major Japanese enterprises backed by trading houses are vying against their foreign competitors in tenders for new projects, they said.

In Heizhou, China has decided to build an equally owned ethylene manufacturing plant in partnership with the Royal Dutch Shell Group. When completed around 1999, the facilities with an annual capacity of 450,000 tons will become China's largest petrochemical plant.

Six major Japanese trading companies have already been picked as partners for a similar project in Yingkou.

The sources said Japanese trading houses aim to join the Heizhou project through exporting production facilities and providing funds.

China has launched feasibility studies on other petrochemical projects, including those in Shandong, Sichuan and Hebei Provinces, they said.

A partnership of four Japanese and U.S. firms, including Marubeni Corp., received an order in August for an ethylene plant with an annual capacity of 300,000 tons to be installed at Maoming, Guandong Province.

South Korea's giant Samsung group of companies defeated Japanese and European enterprises in winning an order for an ethylene plant for a petrochemical project in Jilin Province, the sources said.

The Chinese Government plans to double its ethylene production by 1995 from the present level of about 2.3 million tons a year, they said, adding China's annual ethylene demand is expected to top 10 million tons if its economic growth continues at a high pace.

Tokyo Seeking Cooperation With German Industry

LD2111054792 Hamburg DPA in German 0800 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo (DPA)—Japan is more than ever interested in intensified cooperation with Germany and German industry. The two states should crank up the world economy together, Kozo Watanabe, Japanese minister of international trade and industry said in Tokyo today at the second German-Japanese Economics Forum, which was also attended by German Economics Minister Juergen Moellemann.

Research and development of new top technologies were becoming increasingly costly so there would have to be joint cooperation in this sphere in the future too, said Watanbe. He named as a specific example environmental technology, in which Germany occupies a leading position.

Moellemann complained about the continuing difficult access of German products to the Japanese market. Unfair obstacles to trade must be eliminated, he demanded. In agreement with Watanbe, he spoke in favor of a continuation of the talks, which began in Muenster in May, of the seven leading industrialized nations with seven reform states of the former East Bloc—Poland, the CSFR, Hungary, Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, and Kazakhstan—with the participation of businessmen. Watanbe extended an invitation to Japan for this but did not specify a date.

Watanbe spoke in favor of granting the reform states, including the CIS, further trade concessions to bring progress to restructuring in the direction of democracy and the market economy. Watanbe put Japan's economic aid to the reform states at $4.6 billion (about 7.2 billion German marks) so far. Unfortunately, there was only low participation by Japanese firms, partly due to a lack of information. Here too, cooperation with German companies could help.

Tokyo To Send Personnel to Former Yugoslavia

OW2111073492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0719 GMT 21 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 21 KYODO—Japan will send personnel to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) offices in civil war-torn former Yugoslavia, government sources said Saturday.

At the request of the UNHCR, the Japanese Government will probably send two people to engage in activities such as transporting relief goods, protecting refugees and communication, the sources said.

In early October, the UNHCR asked 46 countries to send a total of 60 people to open five offices in Bosnia, two in Serbia and one in Montenegro.

Tokyo decided to dispatch the personnel because Britain and some Scandinavian countries have already indicated they will comply with the request, the sources said.

The Foreign Ministry is currently selecting the personnel who can speak the local language and have expert knowledge in their fields, they said.

Since the dispatch of personnel to highly dangerous areas is unprecedented, ministry sources said they are worried about what to do in case trouble befalls the Japanese personnel.

The Japanese Government has already disbursed about 20 million dollars to UNHCR and to the International Committee of the Red Cross to support relief activities in former Yugoslavia.

Japan is the fourth-largest donor, after the European Community, the United States and Norway.

Chea Sim Meets Political Leaders, Departs

BK2311124592 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1100 GMT 23 Nov 92

["Report on the Activities of His Excellency Chea Sim in Japan"]

[Text] On the morning of 19 November, after holding talks with His Excellency [H.E.] Sakurauchi, chairman of the Japanese Diet, H.E. the chairman of the National Assembly held talks with the following major Japanese figures:

H.E. Ouchi, chairman of the Democratic Socialist Party;

H.E. Yamasaki, minister of construction; and

H.E. Okuda, minister of transport and chairman of the Association of Diet Members for Cambodia-Japan Friendship.

These talks focused on Cambodian-Japanese bilateral relations and the implementation of the Paris peace agreement. The talks proceeded in a happy and cordial atmosphere and in a genuine spirit of friendship and cooperation. These Japanese personalities reaffirmed their sentiments of friendship with the Cambodian people and the profound aspiration to contribute to further strengthening and expanding bilateral relations for the benefit of the two countries' people and to serve the cause of peace, cooperation, and development in the region and in the world.

Concerning the process toward implementing the peace agreement in Cambodia, these Japanese figures highly appreciated the Cambodian People's Party and the government of our State of Cambodia for continuing to implement the peace agreement with a spirit of responsibility and utmost patience while the Khmer Rouge are striving to destroy the peace agreement.

H.E. the National Assembly chairman expressed profound thanks to the Japanese Government and people for their assistance and support to the Cambodian people to achieve genuine peace and for their assistance in rebuilding Cambodia.

After a six-day visit to Japan, at 1735 on 19 November, H.E. the chairman left Tokyo for home, passing through Hong Kong.

It is worth recalling that during his stay in Tokyo, H.E. the chairman held talks with major personalities in the Japanese Government, such as H.E. the prime minister; H.E. the deputy prime minister and foreign minister; H.E. the minister of construction; H.E. the minister of transport; two deputy foreign ministers, namely Kakizawa and (Rosa); H.E. the chairman of the Japanese Diet; and a number of Diet members; leaders of three major parties, namely Komeito, Social Democratic, and Democratic Socialist; members of a number of Japanese social organizations; representatives of a number of major companies; and was interviewed by NHK and KYODO.

Envoy: Cambodian Peacekeepers Not To Return Fire

OW2011152692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1454 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 20 KYODO—Japan insists its armed peacekeepers should not open fire under any circumstances to defend polling stations during a general election scheduled for next May, the Japanese ambassador to Cambodia said Friday [20 November]. Japanese Ambassador to Cambodia Yukio Imagawa told KYODO News Service that Japan is "absolutely" opposed to any firing at "Cambodian people" by peacekeeping troops of the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), even if Khmer Rouge forces attack polling stations.

Imagawa apparently made the remark in reference to a draft report compiled by U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali in mid-November. Ghali proposed in his report that UNTAC peacekeeping troops should divert their efforts from disarming the four warring factions in Cambodia to protecting voters and election personnel.

Imagawa said the government should consider pulling Japan's 600 Ground Self-Defense Forces troops out of Cambodia if the character of UNTAC peacekeeping forces is shifted to an offensive nature. He added it will be necessary to revise the October 1991 Paris peace accord to take account of such a shift to an offensive nature if UNTAC peacekeepers are detailed to protect the voters and the election personnel.

Commenting on the elections themselves, Imagawa said simply they can be held next May even if the Khmer Rouge does not take part. As for the presidential race, Imagawa said Prince Norodom Sihanouk is the only person able to rule the country. He said it is thus to be hoped that Cambodian voters will elect Sihanouk, who is currently head of the country's interim Supreme National Council.

Imagawa also spoke of the proposed U.N. economic sanctions against the Khmer Rouge for refusing to disarm and participate in the election, saying the faction "may not be" a threat to peace in Cambodia. The communist-led Khmer Rouge has declared its respect for the Paris peace accord, Imagawa said, adding that the faction has shown no signs of withdrawing from the Supreme National Council, the interim highest policy decision-making body comprising the Khmer Rouge, the formerly Vietnamese-backed Phnom Penh government and two other smaller factions.

Imagawa also referred to the requests of UNTAC and other countries participating in the UNTAC for Japanese military transport planes. He said Japan should cooperate as far as possible. But he said Japan should flatly reject requests by UNTAC and the countries that Air Self-Defense Forces (ASDF) transport planes carry their infantry troops in Cambodia. Japan's Defense Agency earlier said the Philippines was seeking the help of the ASDF aircraft in transporting supplies to Philippine troops participating in U.N. peacekeeping operations in Cambodia.

Diet Members 'Regret' Arrest of Timor Rebel

OW2111085792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0839 GMT 21 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 21 KYODO—A group of Japanese lawmakers expressed regret Saturday over the arrest of Xanana Gusmao, the rebel leader who has been fighting for the independence of East Timor.

A Diet group on East Timor affairs, which consists of 90 members of the House of Councillors and the House of Representatives, issued a statement saying it regrets the arrest of Xanana on Friday.

The statement also said the group is concerned about his safety.

Indonesia's state-run ANTARA News Agency reported Friday that the Indonesian Army arrested Xanana in a military operation in the East Timor capital of Dili.

Jakarta has accused Xanana of being the mastermind of a civilian protest that led to the Army's shooting of dozens of demonstrators in Dili on November 12, 1991.

Human rights groups and independent reports said more than 100 people were killed when Indonesian troops opened fire on unarmed demonstrators attending the funeral of a separatist sympathizer.

But a government commission said only 50 people were killed.

Timber Accord Stresses Environmental Conservation

OW2111104192 Tokyo KYODO in English 1009 GMT 21 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 21 KYODO—The new International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA) puts importance on environmental preservation rather than on controlled trade of tropical timber, according to a draft KYODO News Service obtained Saturday.

The draft report was compiled by the chairman of an informal working group on renegotiation of the ITTA, which took effect in 1984 and expires in March 1994.

The accord, aimed at proper development and management of tropical timber, is signed by 37 timber producing nations, including Indonesia and Malaysia, and 33 consuming countries including the United States.

The report proposes mentioning in the preamble of the accord the agreements reached at the U.N. Conference on the Environment and Development in June 1992 and "in particular the Rio de Janeiro Declaration on Environment and Development—the nonlegally binding and authoritative statement on principles for a global consensus on the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests."

It also proposes moving up a paragraph on the objectives which said it is "to encourage the development of national policies aimed at sustainable utilization and conservation of tropical forests and their genetic resources and at maintaining the ecological balance in the regions concerned."

The paragraph was previously listed in the last of eight objectives.

Members of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), a Yokohama-based organization of 47 timber producing and consuming countries, is to discuss the draft in its meeting to be held Monday and Tuesday in Yokohama.

The draft suggests that the International Tropical Timber Council, "in the light of changing circumstances affecting the international trade in tropical timber," undertake and encourage members to "apply relevant policy and nonproject work in the development of national polices and project proposals."

Ozaki Hails Resumption of Diet Deliberation

OW2011105292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1017 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 20 KYODO—Japanese Vice Finance Minister Mamoru Ozaki Friday hailed the resumption of long-stalled deliberations in the Diet and said he hoped this fiscal year's supplementary budget will be approved as soon as possible.

"We've waited a long while, but it seems as if it has started moving at last," Ozaki said at a regular press conference. "Don't I look a lot happier today?" He asked.

On Friday, the ruling Liberal Democratic Party agreed with opposition parties to summon Hiroyasu Watanabe, former president of Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co. and allegedly a key figure in the Sagawa money and gangster scandal, to testify under oath in the Diet.

The two sides on Thursday agreed to have former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita and the LDP's former kingpin Shin Kanemaru testify on the same matter.

Ozaki admitted that the end of the impasse seems to have favorably affected the Tokyo stock market, where the benchmark Nikkei stock average of 225 selected issues climbed 162.29 points from the day before to close at 17,033.60, recovering the 17,000 level for the first time in two weeks.

It seems as if market players felt it had touched bedrock levels, at the same time the release of poor corporate financial statements peaked, Ozaki said. He noted that institutional investors and public funds are coming back into the game.

Following the rapprochement by the LDP and the opposition front, the budget committee of the House of Representatives is expected to begin its deliberation next week.

The early passing of the supplementary budget is regarded as one of the core processes to wholly implementing the government's 10.7 trillion yen economic package, designed in August to salvage the nation from a de facto recession.

Turning to the issue of tax reforms in Japan, Ozaki referred to the current special exemption of tax applied to the elderly, handicapped, and other disadvantaged groups, saying the system is only a transitionary scheme.

The special exemption was left over as an exceptional case, when a new law in 1987 abolished the old system that endorsed small-amount savings through exemption of tax.

Ozaki noted the special exemption costs the government 480 billion yen a year [as received], a figure which would otherwise be collected as tax imposed on interests. "If you call that helping senior citizens, the money should be used in other ways of assisting the elderly," he added.

He stressed that the restructuring of the tax system is still under way and that the exemption was left to avoid an overly radical change.

SDP Chief Vows To Get Vote-Value Bill Passed

OW2111092592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0711 GMT 21 Nov 92

[Text] Yamaguchi, Nov. 21 KYODO—The leader of Japan's largest opposition party said Saturday his party will make every effort to get a bill through the Diet to narrow a disparity in the values of votes between heavily and disperse [as received] populated constituencies in the House of Representatives.

Social Democratic Party (SDP) Chairman Makoto Tanabe made the remarks at a press conference during a visit here with other members of the SDP shadow cabinet.

He said the party hopes to get the bill through the parliament, in addition to other political reform measures.

"We consider we must do a job to settle (the current disparity in the values of votes), which is in an unconstitutional situation," Tanabe said.

Following the end of questioning in the lower house budget committee on November 24 and 25, Tanabe said his party is ready to deliberate the bill in a special lower house investigation committee to revise the Public Election Law.

The bill on the rectification of seats in the lower house constituencies centers on increasing one seat in each of nine underrepresented constituencies in the 512-member lower house and reducing one seat in each of 10 overrepresented constituencies.

The ruling Liberal Democratic Party and opposition parties are playing a tug-of-the war in dealing with the bill, which cuts disparity rates between eligible votes per a candidate in a rural constituency and those per a candidate in an urban constituency to less than 3-to-1.

The Supreme Court ruled in 1983 that a disparity of more than 3-to-1 in the values of a vote runs counter to the principle of equality in the Constitution.

In the February, 1990, lower house general election, the value of one vote in the No. 2 electoral district in Miyazaki Prefecture in Kyushu was 3.18 times larger than one in the No. 4 constituency in Kanagawa Prefecture near Tokyo.

Tanabe, commenting on the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin scandal, said he believes the judicial authorities will allow Hiroyasu Watanabe, former president of the now-defunct Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co., to testify as a sworn witness in the Diet.

Watanabe, who has been on trial for alleged aggravated breach of trust against his parcel delivery firm, is regarded as a key person in the gang-related scandal allegedly involving former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita and retired LDP kingmaker Shin Kanemaru.

Tokyo: No Relief for Diet Members Named in Court

OW2111130592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1128 GMT 21 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 21 KYODO—The government has concluded it can offer no measures for restoring the reputations of seven Diet members of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), whose names were read in an affidavit by prosecutors in connection with a political scandal, government sources said Saturday.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa instructed the cabinet councillors' office on internal affairs on November 9 to study existing administrative procedures for citizens who feel they have received unfair treatment from the justice system.

The office has concluded that the seven LDP Diet members have no choice but to file suit based on the state redress law if they want to clear their names, the sources said.

The office will submit the conclusion to Miyazawa through Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Nobuo Ishihara, the sources said.

Miyazawa gave the instructions after pressure mounted among LDP executives for him to take more forceful action against the prosecutors.

On November 5, the prosecution read in court a deposition taken from Ryumin Oshima, leader of the rightist group Nihon Kominto, naming the LDP lawmakers as having contracted the group to stop its harassment campaign against former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita.

Former LDP Vice President Shin Kanemaru, LDP Diet Affairs Committee Chairman Seiroku Kajiyama and Yoshiro Mori, chairman of the LDP Policy Affairs Research Council, were among the seven LDP politicians named in the deposition.

Oshima told prosecutors that a proxy for Kanemaru offered 3 billion yen to the group and Mori offered 2 billion yen in 1987 to silence a smear campaign against Takeshita, who was vying for the LDP presidency. Kanemaru and Mori have denied the allegations.

The LDP announced November 6 it would file a libel suit against two unidentified prosecutors but abandoned the plan four days later.

Takatori Asked Sagawa Kyubin Owner for 'Support'

OW2111150192 Tokyo KYODO in English 1345 GMT 21 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 21 KYODO—The Diet member who will moderate testimony on the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin scandal asked the owner of Sagawa Kyubin Co. for support shortly after the 1990 general election, informed sources said Saturday.

House of Representatives Budget Committee Chairman Osamu Takatori sent a letter to Kiyoshi Sagawa, then chairman of the major Kyoto-based express parcel delivery company, asking for his support, the sources said.

While acknowledging that he wrote a letter to Sagawa, Takatori told KYODO News Service he has no special ties with him and he "received no reply and therefore no support" from Sagawa.

Takatori, 63, will moderate parliamentary testimony to be given next week by former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, retired political kingmaker Shin Kanemaru and Hiroyasu Watanabe, former president of Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co., a now-defunct affiliate of Sagawa Kyubin which allegedly had links to organized crime groups.

The men are supposed to testify on their alleged roles in the widening political scandal.

Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin was one of five regional Sagawa Kyubin group companies that merged May 1, 1991.

With his victory in the February 1990 general election, Takatori, 63, was returned to the lower house for an eighth time representing the No. 4 constituency of Niigata Prefecture located on the Sea of Japan. Sagawa is also from Niigata Prefecture.

In the letter postmarked February 20, 1990, Takatori reportedly noted his growing power as a politician hailing from Niigata Prefecture and sought Sagawa's backing.

Watanabe has been indicted on a charge of aggravated breach of trust for incurring huge losses to Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin by providing loans and loan guarantees without collateral.

The opposition camp voiced concern about whether Takatori can manage the budget committee session in a fair and objective manner, with some opposition Diet members calling for him to resign his post as chairman of the committee.

Tetsuo Kitamura of the No. 1 opposition Social Democratic Party said, "we could summon Mr. Kiyoshi Sagawa to the Diet to testify as a sworn witness at the lower house budget committee session."

Kitamura wondered aloud if Takatori "asked for support from Sagawa, is it possible for him to manage committee affairs fairly?"

"Did he really gain no support from Sagawa? We need to question Chairman Takatori at the budget committee session," he added.

The 40-day extraordinary Diet session that began October 30 will start next Tuesday full-fledged debate on a supplementary budget plan aimed at jump-starting the foundering Japanese economy.

Breaking nearly a fortnight stalemate, Diet business returned to normal Friday in the wake of an agreement between the ruling and three noncommunist opposition parties to have Takeshita, Kanemaru and Watanabe testify about their alleged roles in the scandal.

Asked about the possible impact of his letter on the Diet deliberations, Takatori said, "I will not at all give any special consideration to Sagawa Kyubin. The Diet debate will not be affected."

Finance Minister Urges Early Approval of Budget

OW2011024492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0203 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 20 KYODO—Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata called Friday for the Diet to pass the supplementary budget for the current fiscal year as soon as possible.

Hata, speaking at a press conference after a cabinet meeting, expressed his irritation at the stalling of deliberations on the budget.

The budget debate is held up due to the failure of the ruling and opposition parties to agree on the parliamentary probe into the Sagawa Kyubin money-and-mobster scandal.

The government, Hata said, has no plans to issue deficit-financing bonds in the next fiscal year, when revenues are projected to be some 1.2 trillion yen lower than fiscal 1992 levels due to the slowdown in the Japanese economy.

The finance minister said the government will continue to utilize the fiscal investment and loan program to revitalize the economy.

The program, known as Japan's "second budget" and largely funded by postal savings and welfare pension funds, is scheduled to be boosted by over 10 percent to 45 trillion yen.

The program should have positive effects on housing investments, Hata said.

Economic Organizations Urge Political Reforms

OW2011043792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0421 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 20 KYODO—Representatives of four major Japanese economic organizations called on Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Friday to implement his pledge to carry out sweeping political reforms as soon as possible, business sources said.

The sources said the appeal was made through Tamisuke Watanuki, secretary general of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), during his meeting with business leaders led by Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren).

Citing Miyazawa's promise to map out a draft proposal for political reforms by the end of November, the business leaders called on him to present at least a timetable for the reforms if the work on the draft is delayed, the sources said.

Watanuki said the government and the LDP are concentrating on the early passage of a supplementary budget through the Diet for the time being.

Deliberations on the extra budget have been held up due to opposition demands for people implicated in a massive money-mobster scandal to testify as sworn witnesses in the Diet.

Watanuki noted that opposition parties control the House of Councillors, hampering the LDP's efforts to get the budget through parliament quickly, the sources said.

Despite the standstill in Diet business, Watanuki ruled out an extension of the session, they said.

Also Friday in Nagoya, the top leaders of four economic groups in the region met and adopted a resolution calling for early approval of the budget by the Diet and promotion of political reforms.

The resolution expressed concern the delay on the budget may adversely affect the economic slowdown.

The meeting was the first to strengthen unity among the groups and promote major projects in the region, including construction of an international airport.

Participants said they agreed to meet once every three months.

North Korea

U.S. Arms Official Comments on Nuclear Issue

SK2111043592 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0415 GMT 21 Nov 92

["U.S. High-Ranking Official Denies Possibility of Nuclear Arms Development in DPRK"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang November 21 (KCNA)—Ronald Lehman, director of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, on November 1 denied the possibility of the development of nuclear weapons in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, according to a report from Washington.

He said that now prevalent in Washington are views that the misgivings about the possibility of the nuclear arms development by North Korea have diminished after inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency and the publication of the inter-Korean joint declaration on denuclearization.

He also said he had no information about the manufacture of nuclear weapons by Pyongyang.

Group Condemns Planned U.S. Korean War Memorial

SK2111105692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1032 GMT 21 Nov 92

[Text] Pyongyang November 21 (KCNA)—The spokesman of the Korean Anti-Imperialist Veteran Fighters Committee issued a statement today denouncing the ground-breaking ceremony to erect a "Monument to the Korean War" held in Los Angeles on Nov. 15 by U.S. "veteran soldiers" who had participated in the Korean war.

The statement brands this as a criminal act to distort the history of the U.S. aggression on Korea and justify their shameful atrocities and crimes.

The statement says:

The Korean war was a war of aggression started by the U.S. imperialists to occupy the DPRK.

The United States mercilessly destroyed and burned all towns and villages of Korea and indiscriminately killed defenceless people.

It is nearly 40 years since the ceasefire in Korea, but the Korean people and the peaceloving people of the world vividly remember the brutal destruction and massacre committed by the U.S. imperialist aggressors.

The United States and the U.S. "veteran soldiers" must give up the hypocritic project of the "monument to the war" and deeply reflect on and apologize for their criminal atrocities.

They must replace the Korean armistice agreement with a peace agreement, withdraw their troops from South Korea and stop the aggressive war exercises such as "Team Spirit" joint military maneuvers lest the scourge of war should be repeated in Korea and contribute to achieving a durable peace on the Korean peninsula and a peaceful reunification of Korea.

Secretary Kim Yong-sun Meets Ramsey Clark

SK2311105692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1019 GMT 23 Nov 92

[Text] Pyongyang November 23 (KCNA)—Secretary of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea and chairman of the Korean Committee for Solidarity With World People Kim Yong-sun today met and conversed in a friendly atmosphere with former Secretary of Justice of the United States Ramsey Clark.

Kim Hyong-u, vice-chairman of the committee, was on hand.

Yeltsin Visit to South Called 'Despicable Act'

SK2311050492 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0447 GMT 23 Nov 92

[Text] Pyongyang November 22 (KCNA)—No Tae-u of South Korea "invited" the Russian president to visit South Korea over November 18-20 and had "summit talks", signed a "treaty on the principles of relations" and made public a "joint statement".

At the talks he requested the Russian president to "cooperate" with South Korea in deterring the DPRK's "development of nuclear arms" and leading it to "opening" and to discontinue "cooperation" with the DPRK in military technology, revealing his ulterior purpose to get something with other's help.

This is really a foolish and despicable act going against the desire of the nation, ignorant of the universal situation.

At a time when the documents of the inter-Korean agreement should be carried into effect in real earnest, he agreed with the United States, his master, to resume large-scale nuclear war exercises against fellow countrymen and went to Japan to seek a "joint action", taking issue with the fictitious "nuclear problem" of the DPRK. As if it were not enough, he "invited" other outside force to entreat "cooperation". It is, indeed, an anti-national, anti-reunification flunkeyist act of a person who has been accustomed to dependence on foreign forces.

No claimed that the socalled "nuclear problem" of the North poses a "threat". It is a far-fetched jargon reminding us of a thief crying "stop thief!"

Our will of denuclearization and the uprightness of our peaceloving nuclear policy have been officially clarified more than once and clearly proved by several rounds of irregular inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency. Even the director of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency recently denied the possibility of the nuclear arms development in the DPRK.

Nuclear misgivings on the Korean peninsula are only suspicions as regards the U.S. nuclear weapons in South Korea. It is due to the South Korean authorities attempting to exclude the U.S. nuclear weapons and nuclear bases from inspection that the problem of nuclear inspections between the North and the South has not been solved.

Trying to get something by means of reversing black and white and unreasonably putting pressure on the DPRK, apart from the principle of fairness, can never work and it will only result in rendering the settlement of the problem more difficult.

It is unbecoming to No that at a time when the South Korean political situation has been all the more confused with the "presidential elections" a month off and he is in uneasiness, spending the last days in power, he found himself busy having "summit talks" and concluding a "treaty".

Lurking behind this is a sinister intention. Curses of the people for a thousand and one crimes he has committed during his office in deceiving and making a mockery of the people, while pursuing fascism and treachery, division and corruption, and driving the economy and people's livelihood to bankruptcy and finds himself in a quandary in which he has to be worried about his fate after his retirement.

It is the stark reality of South Korea that he is uneasy about his destiny after his retirement, when the "Democratic Liberal Party" [DLP] is undergoing the throe of internal division due to the internal strife with the "presidential elections" approaching, the popular sentiments are mounting to put an end to the fascist rule of the "DLP," which is being pushed into the position of passive defense.

Such being the situation, No Tae-u intends to improve his image as the incumbent "president" before the change of power and secure a position favorable for the stay of the "DLP" in power by "summit diplomacy".

The people, however, see the signs of the doom of those who are miserable today and will be so tomorrow through the "visit" this time. The diplomatic activity of the "sixth republic" ruler this time cannot be his "exploit" and no one can vouch that it would be effective.

As for "economic cooperation" debated at the talks, it is a hard fact that South Korea is not in a position to help others with its economy in a serious depression and its foreign debts hitting a ridiculous height, in which it cannot manage even its own affairs.

It is only too clear that the South Korean people would be made victims, if the authorities attempted to show "generosity" with others' money.

And it is meaningless to sign a "treaty" with the 36 percent "president" without orthodoxy who has to step down tomorrow.

However wildly the ruler may kick and scream in the last days of his office, facing judgement by the people, he cannot evade his destiny of going to a worse place than the Paekdam temple. He must pay for the crimes which he has committed.

The South Korean people will surely make No Tae-u pay the price for his crimes.

Death of Lao Leader Kaysone Phomvihan Reported

SK2311010392 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 22 Nov 92

[Text] According to a report from Vientiane, in connection with the death of Kaysone Phomvihan, chairman of the Lao

People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee and president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the LPRP Central Committee, and the Supreme People's Assembly of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Government, and the Lao Building Front Central Committee issued a special announcement.

The special announcement said that President Kaysone Phomvihan, respected and beloved leader of the Lao people, died of a disease at the age of 72 at 1123 [0223 GMT] on 21 November 1992. The special announcement noted: Comrade President Kaysone Phomvihan was a valuable son of all the Lao people and a hero of the Lao nation. For half a century, he devoted all his wisdom and energy to the struggle for the national liberation cause and defending and constructing the country of our people.

As a great outstanding and wise leader of our party, state, and people, he had always led our people's revolution to a great victory with the party Central Committee Politburo and the party Central Committee comrades. He has turned our country into an independent country from a foreign colony and into a country with international dignity.

Comrade President Kaysone Phomvihan was a genuine patriot and intimate friend of the world people. The death of Comrade President Kaysone Phomvihan is a great loss to our party, state, and people.

The special announcement appealed to the LPRP Central Committee, the Supreme People's Assembly, the government, the Lao Building Front Central Committee, all fellow countrymen of all races and all strata, cadres, party members, and national defense and security guard forces for turning their thoughts of sorrow and condolence into revolutionary activities, for rallying around the party Central Committee led by the Politburo, for developing the glorious tradition of the nation and the party, for firmly maintaining and carrying out the policy put forward by Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, for constantly constructing and developing the people's democratic system, and for constructing Laos as a peaceful, democratic, united, and prosperous country.

The special announcement noted that, to express deep grief for President Kaysone Phomvihan's death and to cherish the memory of him, a nationwide condolence period would be set from 22 to 28 November.

In the meantime, a state funeral committee was formed. Its chairman is Nouhak Phoumsavan, chairman of the Lao People's Supreme Assembly, and vice chairman is Khamtai Siphandon, Lao prime minister.

Kim Il-song Sends Condolences

SK2311013192 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2200 GMT 22 Nov 92

["Condolence message" from Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Workers Party of Korea (WPK) and president of the DPRK, to the Central Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party (LPRP) and the government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (LPDR) in connection with the death of Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, chairman of the LPRP and president of the LPDR; read by announcer]

[Text] Vientiane

To the Central Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] and the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR]

I have received the sad news that Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, chairman of the LPRP and president of the LPDR, died of an illness.

Sharing sorrow with you at this moment of having lost Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, the excellent leader of the Lao people and our intimate friend, I, on behalf of the WPK Central Committee, the Government of the DPRK, and the Korean people; and on my own behalf, express deep condolence to the LPRP, the Government of the LPDR, the Lao people, and the bereaved families.

Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan devoted all of his wisdom and energy to the freedom and liberation of the Lao people and the cause of national independence, national defense, and national construction. Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan brilliantly realized the historic cause of national liberation and founded the LPDR by founding a revolutionary party of the working class in Laos and by organizing and leading to victory the Lao people's arduous struggle against outside imperialists and domestic reactionaries.

Following the founding of the Republic, Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan solidified the people's democratic system by strengthening the party's unity and cohesion and constantly enhancing its leading role and firmly defended revolutionary gains by accelerating social and economic development. He thus registered great achievements in the work of building an independent and prosperous new Laos.

Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan made active efforts to strengthen and develop the relations of traditional friendship and cooperation between the parties, the governments, and the peoples of our two countries forged in the joint struggle against imperialism and for independence. He was our intimate brother and comrade-in-arms who extended full support for and firm solidarity with the Korean people's just cause for socialist construction and for the country's independent and peaceful reunification.

The death of Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan constitutes a great loss not only for the Lao party, state, and people, but also for the Korean people and the peace-loving people of the world.

Although Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan has passed away, the noble achievements that he devoted to the common cause of mankind for anti-imperialist independence, peace, national sovereignty, and socialism will remain forever in the minds of the Lao people, the Korean people, and the progressive people of the world.

[signed] Kim Il-song, general secretary of the WPK Central Committee and president of the DPRK
[dated] 22 November 1992, Pyongyang

Biographical Sketch of Lao President

SK2311021392 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 22 Nov 92

[Text] Brief history of Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, chairman of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee and president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR]:

Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan was born in an official's home in (Sabanna Ketedo Kantabrigun Nasenie), Laos, on 13 December 1920.

He studied law at Hanoi University. He had participated in the anti-French and anti-Japanese struggle from 1942. He formed the (Rasabong) armed ranks, the predecessor of the Lao People's Army, in 1949.

He was appointed to the National Defense Ministry of the Lao Resistance Government in 1950. He was elected general secretary of the LPRP Central Committee and appointed as supreme commander of the Lao People's Army in 1955. While working as vice chairman of the Lao Patriotic Front Central Committee from 1957, he had led the Lao people's anti-U.S. resistance for national salvation.

He was reelected general secretary of the party Central Committee at the LPRP second session in 1972. He had led the war for national liberation to complete war. By so doing, he abolished the Lao monarchy system and founded the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

At the session of the National People's Deputies on 2 December 1975, he was elected Prime Minister of the Government of the LPDR. At the LPRP third session in April 1982 and at the LPRP fourth session in November in 1986, he was reelected general secretary of the party Central Committee.

At the LPRP fifth session in March 1991, he was elected LPRP Central Committee chairman. At the Sixth Session of the Second Supreme People's Assembly, he was elected president of the LPDR.

He made an official goodwill visit to our country with a Lao party and government delegation in June 1977. He made an official goodwill visit to our country in April 1992. He then attended meetings to congratulate the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song on his 80th birthday and to congratulate the Korean People's Army on its 60th founding anniversary.

Even though Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, who was an outstanding leader of the Lao party and state, resolute anti-imperialist fighter, and a close friend of the Korean people, died, his achievements will be brilliant forever.

Comments by South Defense Minister Condemned

SK2011054592 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0429 GMT 20 Nov 92

["Brazen Sophism Aimed at 'Election' by Violence"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang November 20 (KCNA)—South Korean "Defence Minister" Choe Se-chang told a "Monthly Defence Meeting" on November 17 that the puppet army must be kept in a perfect alert and readiness for action against possible "unexpected provocation" by somebody during the "change of power" including the period of the "presidential elections."

Commenting on this, a NODONG SINMUN analyst today says his talk about "confrontation" and "terrorism" alluding to the North is a shameless jargon intended to find a pretext to drive even the puppet army into a crackdown on people and a move to extend the sphere of votes for the military fascist force by creating the impression that the situation is very strained.

His outburst suggests that his group may fabricate an incident of military provocation against the North when they are driven into a blind alley while resorting to false propaganda.

The South Korean puppet military is, by origin, the main base and core foothold of the military fascist force.

In the past, too, the military gangsters let loose the puppet army to threaten and suppress people and heighten confrontation and tensions, taking issue with the North with outcries over "provocation" whenever "presidential elections" took place in South Korea, in a bid to divert elsewhere the people's attention and ensure the stay of the military fascist force in power.

We hope to improve the North-South relations through the honest implementation of the agreement and thus to bring earlier peace and reunification.

"Elections" in South Korea have nothing to do with us. It is an unpardonable anti-national criminal act for them to try to intentionally aggravate the North-South relations by taking issue with the North, seeking the stay of the military fascist force in power.

South Korea

More Contacts With New U.S. Government Planned

SK2011012792 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 19 Nov 92 p 2

[Text] The government is planning to expand contacts with officials of the new U.S. Administration which will begin its operation soon. It wants to strengthen its economic and trade relations with the United States through active public relations on the status of U.S.-ROK trade relations.

The government formulated this policy at the ninth meeting of the Foreign Public Relations Council chaired by assistant minister Ho Sung at a Foreign Ministry conference room on 18 November. The meeting was attended by representatives of the Economic Planning Board, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Ministry of Information, the Korean Trade Promotion Corporation, the Korean Foreign Trade Association, Korea-U.S. Economic Council, and the Foreign Economic Policy Institute.

On the assumption that the new U.S. Administration officials will be influenced by the reports which the working-level officials of the U.S. Government departments will make on ROK-U.S. trade relations to the new administration members, the government is planning to make efforts so that the true situation can be accurately reflected in these reports.

The government is also planning to promote ties with the new administration officials through seminars, symposiums, and parliamentary exchanges.

At the same time, the government is planning to intensify public relations, by such means as distributing public relations booklets, to inform the new administration figures on the status of ROK-U.S. trade relations, including the ROK economic situation, balanced trade between the ROK and the United States, and the smooth operation of ROK-U.S. trade relations.

The government thinks, in particular, that the ROK-U.S. Economic Council meeting to be held in Seoul next March will be an important meeting for the establishment of ROK economic and trade relations with the new administration. The government will, therefore, make efforts to induce satisfactory solutions at this meeting.

Officials Meet With Clinton's Asian Policy Team

SK2111120092 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 21 Nov 92 p 2

[By correspondent Chong Hae-yong]

[Text] The second meeting of the consuls general in the United States this year was held at the conference room of the ROK Embassy in Washington on 20 November chaired by Hyon Hong-chu, ROK ambassador to the United States. The meeting reviewed the U.S. political scene that is expected to develop when U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton comes into power and discussed measures to strengthen ROK-U.S. relations.

Present at the meeting were the consuls general of 12 regions of the United States and Sin Ki-pok, assistant foreign minister.

Assistant Minister Sin met State Department officials during his U.S. visit and they discussed the two nations' political matters. In particular, he contacted members of the Clinton transition team in charge of Asian policies to explain the ROK position to them so that ROK interests may be reflected in their policy making.

Official Says Clinton To Maintain Asian Security

SK2011123292 Seoul YONHAP in English 0742 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 20 (YONHAP)—Vice Foreign Minister No Chang-hui predicted Friday that Bill Clinton's administration would not consider a tripartite conference with North and South Korea or making a new attempt to improve bilateral ties with Pyongyang.

Delivering a lecture on unification issues at a hotel in Seoul, No made the prediction after noting that an idea for renewed contacts with North Korea through such trilateral or bilateral meetings was being advanced among some academicians in the United States.

President-elect Clinton has already enunciated his support for dialogue between South and North Korea for the solution of any problem related to Korea, No said.

Commenting on the prospects for U.S.-Korean relations under the Democratic administration, No said the United States realized that its future lay in its ties with Asian and Pacific nations.

The new U.S. Administration would place particular emphasis on maintenance of regional security, No said. There would not be any change, therefore, in existing U.S.-South Korea military and security arrangements.

With regard to trade, No said he could not rule out the possibility of a fallout on South Korea from the Clinton administration's negative economic and trade policy toward Japan and China.

But the South Korean Government had already taken measures for trade liberalization and for improvement in the environment for foreign businesses in Korea. Even working-level trade officials in Washington said there were not many areas left now for the United States to press South Korea to open, No said.

As a result, there were few elements that could cause trade friction between the two countries under the new U.S. Administration, No added.

Yeltsin Vows 'New, Closer Diplomacy With Asia'

SK2111035692 Seoul YONHAP in English 0201 GMT 21 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 21 (OANA-YONHAP)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin has sent South Korean President No Tae-u a message vowing new, closer diplomacy with Asia over the West, Foreign Ministry officials said Saturday.

The message, sent on Yeltsin's return to Moscow, thanked No for the warm hospitality during his three-day Seoul visit and the chance to experience firsthand South Korea's economic development, adding that he was glad "everything went well."

"It is true that Russia had looked toward the West in the past," it said. "But now we will certainly strengthen ties with Asian nations."

Yeltsin left Friday after signing a treaty on South Korea-Russia basic relations and number of pacts on economic cooperation.

He turned over the black box from the South Korean airplane shot down by a Soviet fighter in 1983, killing all 269 people aboard.

Agreement With Russia Called 'New Frontier'

SK2211064592 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 22 Nov 92 p 6

[Editorial: "No-Yeltsin Declaration"]

[Text] President No Tae-u and his Russian counterpart Boris Yeltsin wound up summit talks Friday, which culminated in producing a landmark joint declaration that charted the future course of the rapidly progressing relations between Seoul and Moscow. The statement is a document exhibiting promotion of open and productive ties between the two countries through regional stability and peace.

In the statement, the two leaders shared the belief that the evolution of Korean-Russian relations will contribute much to strengthening peace and security in Asia and the Pacific, expediting the relaxation of tension and the creation of a climate of trust for the eventual reunification of the two divided halves of Korea. Notable is their shared awareness of the importance of peace on the peninsula for peace in Northeast Asia and the world at large. Specifically, Yeltsin made a strong pledge to pressure North Korea to stop the suspected development of nuclear weapons and submit to the South-North mutual inspection of nuclear facilities.

Yeltsin also pledged his full support for the continuation of productive inter-Korean dialogues toward terminating political and military confrontation between the two Korean sides, which should lead to a just and fair resolution of Korean problems by democratic means in accordance with the will of the Korean people.

Aside from the political bearing of the joint statement, it also provided momentum for stepped-up economic cooperation. It paved the way for Korean businesses to advance into the Russian Republic without fear of risk, by means of solid accords. In concrete measures, the two leaders expressed their support for businessmen of the two countries to explore all avenues of effective and mutually beneficial cooperation in economy, trade, industry and transport, while developing joint enterprises.

In order to further promote two-way cooperation in political, economic, cultural, scientific and other fields, the two leaders also agreed to pursue political dialogue at the highest level and to hold regular meetings and consultations at various other levels. Noteworthy in this regard is the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the two countries, which stipulates exchange of top military officials and naval port calls—the very first military agreement between the two sides since they normalized diplomatic ties in 1990.

A new frontier has now thus been opened in both the political and economic outreach of Korea. Practical strategies are necessary to advance into that new vista with sobriety for the mutual benefit of the two countries. Undeniably, momentum has been added to the creation of a fresh order supplanting the confrontational Cold War structure in Northeast Asia. Its success will depend on stimulating regional cooperation for coprosperity in enduring peace.

Long-Term Perspective on Ties With Russia Urged

SK2111022792 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 21 Nov 92 p 6

[Editorial: New ROK-Russia Relations]

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin's three-day visit here, which was highlighted by the signing of a treaty on basic relations, marks the beginning of a period of productive cooperation between the two former Cold War adversaries.

Apparently refering to the unfortunate past such as the Soviet Union's role in the Korean War and the 1983 downing of a Korean airliner by Soviet fighters, the treaty contained a pledge to "overcome the consequences of the adverse period of their common history."

Besides the basic treaty, South Korean and Russian ministers also signed several other agreements, including those on cultural cooperation and the avoidance of double taxation, which make us envisage an era of active economic and cultural collaboration ahead.

During his stay in Seoul, Yeltsin made various considerate and friendly gestures to the Seoul government. Not only did he apologize for the downing of the KAL airliner in a speech delivered to the National Assembly, but also he handed over the black box recovered from the passenger plane, reversing the initial Russian stand that the cockpit voice recorder will be turned over to the International Civil Aviation Organization.

President Yeltsin further stated clearly that Russia would not engage in any North Korean aggression against a third country by rewriting the 1961 USSR-North Korea treaty. An assurance was also given about no resumption of the supply of nuclear materials and technology to North Korea along with Russia's continued efforts to denuclearize the Korea peninsula.

While these were no small achievements from the Yeltsin visit, such friendly moves were made possible by Moscow's expectations of closer economic cooperation, for which Seoul has made a high-priced commitment. Yet, in view of the difficult political and economic conditions in Russia, we may not be able to reap too many fruits from the new relations during a short span of time.

Korea should look at the Moscow ties on a longer term. President Yeltsin stated in Seoul that Russia is a peace-loving country and wants to play a more constructive role in this region. When Moscow proves this national dictum with actions in the years to come, we should do our part in building up mutually benefitting relations.

Business circles are expressing worries over how to fulfill Korea's economic commitment to Russia and get a substantial reward from it while government authorities maintain an optimistic stand on this question. We believe that the returns from economic cooperation with Russia will largely depend on how wisely and carefully Korea plans it with a vision stretching far into the next century.

Russia Promotes Partnership in Industrial Areas

SK2011020792 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 20 Nov 92 p 1

[Text] Russia hopes to promote projects in partnership with Korea in seven industrial areas, including the construction of nuclear power plants and optic fiber telecommunications, a visiting Russian official said yesterday.

Delivering a speech at a seminar on the development of economic relations between Korea and Russia, Viktor N. Koptevskiy, head of the Asian-Pacific region of the Ministry of External Economic Relations, said projects to commercialize Russia's science and technology potential, in the course of converting its military industries to civilian purposes, could become a great boon to Korea.

He listed the industrial sectors where Korea could cooperate with Russia—optic fiber telecommunications, construction of nuclear power plants, materials and food processing, commercial aerospace, oceanologic industry, new forms of transportation and aircraft, and extraction of biological substances in the production of herbal medicines.

Koptevskiy described as the most promising collaboration areas the exploration and processing of Russia's mineral resources, timber and chemical products, production of electronic appliances and other consumer goods, and applications for such areas as aerospace, materials and biology.

Nikolay G. Malyshev, adviser to Russian President Yeltsin on science and higher education, speaking about Russia's science and technology potential, said Russia has made top-level achievements in applied and basic science studies in the world, but it has limits in converting them into practical applications.

The two are among 140 Russian businessmen and officials, including those who are accompanying the visiting Russian president, who participated in the seminar sponsored by the Korea-CIS Economic Council at the Lotte Hotel. About 180 Korean businessmen were also present.

Russian Military Attaches To Observe Team Spirit

SK2311064692 Seoul YONHAP in English 0637 GMT 23 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 23 (OANA-YONHAP)—Russian military attaches in Asia are to observe military exercises here, including the South Korea-U.S. "Team Spirit" drill, a Korean source said Monday.

"The Russians expressed deep interest in observing exercises, especially Team Spirit, during President Boris Yeltsin's visit last week, and indicated they will send a military observation team," he said.

"Because of Moscow's awareness of Pyongyang, it may be unable to send an official delegation immediately as it would in effect be recognizing and supporting Western-led exercises like Team Spirit," he said.

"The Russian officials said that they will send military attaches instead, for now."

During Yeltsin's stay here Nov. 18-20, Seoul and Moscow signed a memorandum of understanding in military exchanges and cooperation, allowing visits by ranking officials and observation teams.

Seoul and Washington canceled the annual Team Spirit maneuver this year, but warned Pyongyang that they will resume it in 1993 unless it accepts inter-Korean simultaneous nuclear inspection.

Pyongyang threatens to break off all inter-Korean dialogue if Seoul resumes Team Spirit.

"Russia turned down our invitations to observe Team Spirit in the past. We will urge its attendance to send a message to North Korea that the annual maneuver is purely defensive," the source said.

Hyundai May Produce Semiconductors in China

SK2011102392 Seoul YONHAP in English 0651 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 20 (YONHAP)—Hyundai Electronic Industry Co. is considering building semiconductor assembly plants in China under a joint venture with as yet undecided partners, a Hyundai spokesman said Friday.

Hyundai has targeted Shanghai and Tianjin as Beijing is actively supporting the semiconductor industry and the Chinese electronic industry is developing rapidly, creating potentially vast demand for semiconductors, the spokesman said.

He said there were problems with making semiconductors in China because of retarded assembly techniques, but low wages balanced them out.

Electronic companies from Hong Kong and the Philippines were also trying to advance into China, according to him.

Japanese semiconductor manufacturers have set up factories in Southeast Asia to bolster price competitiveness and to avoid trade disputes, but have not entered China yet.

Trade Group To Open Office in Ho Chi Minh City

SK2111020592 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 21 Nov 92 p 8

[Text] Korea Trade Promotion Corp. [KOTRA] will open its office in Ho Chi Minh City Monday, KOTRA said yesterday.

The opening of the KOTRA office follows an agreement last April to exchange liaison offices between South Korea and Vietnam.

KOTRA, which expects bilateral trade to increase sharply soon, opened its first trade fair in the Vietnamese capital Friday.

Samsung Co., Hyundai Corp. and six other large companies, plus 11 small companies are participating in the trade fair, which will continue until Tuesday.

Tanzanian Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit

SK2211060992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0516 GMT 22 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 22 (YONHAP)—Tanzanian Foreign Minister Ahmed Hassan Diria arrived here Sunday for an official visit at the invitation of his Korean counterpart Yi Sang-ok.

Diria and Yi are to have the Korea-Tanzania foreign ministers' talks Monday to discuss cooperative measures in the international society and ways of improving mutual ties.

He will also pay a courtesy call on President No Tae-u during his four-day stay here.

South Korea and the African country normalized diplomatic relationship in April this year.

Signs Economic Cooperation Agreement

SK2311062092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0533 GMT 23 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 23 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea and Tanzania initialed a cooperation pact on economy, science and technology in talks here Monday.

Korean Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok agreed in the talks to send a government-private combined economic delegation to the African nation in the first half of next year to exchange information on possible economic cooperation.

Tanzanian Foreign Minister Ahmed Hassan Diria and Yi briefed each other on political developments in their regions, Ministry officials said.

Diria accented bilateral economic cooperation, asking Seoul to extend credit facilities and accept technical training groups, they said.

Yi said the Finance Ministry would review the possibility of credit facilities and project loans under the Economic Development Cooperation Fund (ECDF).

He promised to continue contributions in industrial equipment and facilities, the officials said.

The two countries normalized ties in April this year.

Anti-Pyongyang Group Demands Kim Il-song Resign

SK2311085692 Seoul YONHAP in English 0827 GMT 23 Nov 92

[Text] Moscow, Nov. 23 (YONHAP)—A group of former North Korean senior officials and army generals in exile called last week for the immediate stepdown of North Korean President Kim Il-song and his son and heir-apparent, Kim Chong-il.

The Central Standing Committee of the National Front for the Salvation and Democratic Unification of Korea, formed in January, announced in the Uzbek capital of Tashkent on Nov. 16 that the group would try to form an interim government in North Korea in collaboration with the North Korean people.

Front chairman Pak Kap-tong, 73, told YONHAP on Monday that the committee adopted a declaration calling for the abolition of the hereditary leadership system in the North and liberation of the North Korean people.

The declaration warns Kim that he faces self-destruction or a tragic end like Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

It also says that if Kim refuses to step down at an early date, the front, in collaboration with an estimated 20 million North Koreans, will wipe out the dictatorship and set up an interim government after writing a new constitution.

Urging the people to join in efforts to terminate the current system, the declaration singles out North Korean soldiers, urging them to think deeply of how they could become soldiers for the nation.

Members of the alliance, former commanding officers, repented in the declaration that they had committed a great blunder in killing hundreds of thousands of innocent comrades by blindly participating in the fratricidal Korean war, and reminded the North Korean Armed Forces that they no longer belonged to Kim Il-song as his private army.

"National unification and peaceful reunion of the Korean people can be made possible by the downfall of the Kim clan, elimination of different elements between the South and North, and seeking grand national collaboration built on understanding, cooperation and true affection toward the people," the declaration says.

"The accomplishment of democratization in South Korea provides a good example to North Korea," it stresses.

Turning to the situation in North Korea, the declaration says fighting between Kim Chong-il and his stepmother, Kim Song-ae, has resulted in the house arrest of the titular first lady, and adds that her address aired on Women's Day March 8 was recorded under coersion.

In an attempt to prevent a popular uprising, about which the leadership is most worried, the declaration says, buses halt in all the cities on the weekend except for Pyongyang.

As the food shortage worsens, the Pyongyang city government has relocated an estimated 700,000 citizens or nearly one-third of its population to rural areas.

The alliance said some 70 percent of the North Korean people harbor antipathy toward the Kims, adding that it was unpredictable "what will happen when and how."

Eleven of the 14 members of the Central Committee, including former Lt. Gen. Yi Sang-cho, former Lt. Gen. Yu Song-chol and Chong Sang-chin, a former vice culture and propaganda minister, were present at the meeting.

North Korea has asked the Russian Government to disband the front under the terms of the 1961 North Korea-Soviet Union friendship and mutual assistance treaty, accusing it of being a terrorist organization, but the Russian Government ignores the demand.

Security Agency Leaks Revised DPRK Constitution

SK2311112592 Seoul YONHAP in English 1111 GMT 23 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 23 (YONHAP)—North Korea has rewritten their constitution to delete, among other things, some words that had stood in the way of improving inter-Korean relations.

This was learned Monday as the Agency for National Security Planning (NSP) made public the full text of the new North Korean Constitution as revised at the third session of the Ninth Supreme People's Assembly on last April 9.

The previous version of the North's basic law said in its Article 5, "We shall struggle to accomplish the complete victory of socialism in the northern half and to expel alien forces and unify the fatherland peacefully on a democratic basis... on a nationwide scale...," a clause taken to reveal the North's naked scheme to place the whole part of the Korean peninsula under their control.

But, Article 9 of the new constitution says, "We shall struggle to realize a complete victory of socialism by strengthening the people's government and forcefully staging the three revolutions of thought, technology and culture in the northern half, and to materialize unification of the fatherland on the principles of independence, peaceful unification and grand national unity."

North Korea has thus deleted the words "on a nationwide scale" in the new constitution to remove one of major factors of distrust that hampered progress of South-North relations.

A government official said that this, however, does not mean North Korea has abandoned schemes to communize the whole Korean peninsula.

The official said that the North retained Article 1 of the previous constitution that "The (people's) Republic represents the interests of the entire Korean people," a clause that alludes to the North's "sole legitimacy" on the Korean peninsula.

Besides, they have left unremoved the preamble of the platform of the Workers' (communist) Party, which calls for the "accomplishment of national liberation and democratic tasks on a nationwide scale," the official said.

The words "national liberation" and "democratic tasks on a nationwide scale" here are known to mean the communization of the southern half of Korea.

The new constitution also features the creation of a National Defense Committee and the dispersion of some of the rights of the state presidency to the Supreme People's Assembly and the newly created National Defense Committee.

The National Defense Committee, second only to the state presidency in terms of power hierarchy order, is to perform the role of the highest military guidance organization in North Korea.

The new basic law bestows on the Supreme People's Assembly the right to recall the state president to weaken the rights of the president and instead strengthen the authority of the Supreme People's Assembly.

The new constitution contains the unprecedented clauses of encouraging joint business or ventures with foreign corporates or individuals (Article 37) and of guaranteeing the legal rights and interests of foreigners (Article 16).

Further on Revised DPRK Constitution

SK2311115892 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 1000 GMT 23 Nov 92

[Text] The North Korean constitution, which was revised last April, was obtained secretly and made public today. North Korea has not made public the revised constitution, fearing that the revision of the constitution, such as the revision to the stipulation on the chuche idea, might create confusion among its residents.

The most conspicuous feature of the revised North Korean constitution is the revision of the clause on Marxism-Leninism. In the constitution revised in 1972, North Korea stipulated that the chuche idea of the Workers Party of Korea, which applied Marxism-Leninism to reality, shall be the guideline of the Republic's activities. However, in the new constitution, North

Korea deleted the phrase that Marxism-Leninism is applied to the chuche idea and stipulated that the chuche idea is a creative revolutionary ideology.

The revised constitution specifies new clauses on joint ventures with foreign enterprises. With this North Korea attempted to modify its foreign economic policy. The revised constitution provides for new clauses, which were not in the old constitution, encouraging joint ventures with foreign corporations or individuals and guaranteeing the legal rights and profit of foreigners in North Korea.

As for the clause on the power of the state, the revised constitution deleted the clause saying that the president is the supreme commander, thus precluding the potential controversy over Kim Chong-il's assumption of office as supreme commander of the Army. The revised constitution upgraded the National Defense Committee, whose first vice chairman is Kim Chong-il, as an organization immediately subordinate to the president, thus showing the North Korean leadership's intent to strengthen the hereditary system by holding the military in its hands.

As for the clause on the people's daily livelihood, the revised constitution provides for new clauses for the state to give college students scholarship funds and provide the working people with cultural facilities, thus stressing that the state makes efforts for the welfare of the people.

Summing up, North Korea's constitution revised last April shows modified features with the deletion of the phrase regarding Marxism-Leninism and with new clauses guaranteeing foreigners' status, but it tightens the North Korean leaders' grip on the residents internally by strengthening the hereditary system.

Kim Chong-il Sources of Foreign Income Revealed

SK1911075492 Seoul YONHAP in English 0704 GMT 19 Nov 92

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 19 (YONHAP)—Kim Chong-il, son and heir-apparent of North Korean President Kim Il-song, runs two secret organizations that double as financial institutions and espionage operations, one in Macao and the other in Vienna, and are supposed to earn foreign currency, and he exercises unchallenged control over the money, the Japanese economic daily SANKEI SHIMBUN said Thursday.

Kim commands the two organizations through "room 39" of the Finance-Accounting Department of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party. Following is the gist of the SANKEI report probing the mystery surrounding Kim Chong-il's acquisition of foreign currency:

"The Choson (Korea) Kwangmyong representative office in Macao is housed in a three-story building with a signboard that says "Chokwang Trade Co.," the name of its own subdivision, near the Royal Hotel. The company appears, at least on the surface, to dabble in trade with foreign countries.

Chokwang officials say they deal in trade with a number of foreign countries, including Japan. Ten-odd people are listed on the payroll, but those who are engaged in trading number only a few.

The rest, informed sources say, are from the party Central Committee's Inspection Department, an external intelligence arm, the "security directorate" in charge of guarding and providing special items for the two Kims, the State Security Department, a secret intelligence body, and the Ministry of Public Security.

North Korea opened the office some 10 years ago, after it had asked Lisbon for a permit through the Portugese Communist Party.

Macao is an important base for North Korean espionage operations and provided shelter for Kim Hyon-hui, the North Korean agent who sabotaged a Korean Air (KAL) plane in 1987.

Ko Yong-hwan, a North Korean diplomat who defected to South Korea last year, says that "room 39" of the Finance-Accounting Department is in charge of taking care of the private wealth of Kim Chong-il. The room supervises the Korea Taesong and Kumsong Banks.

The junior Kim takes total care of foreign currencies and even his father is not authorized to intervene. In fact, Kim directly gives foreign currency to his father if asked.

Another source says that Choe Su-kil, president of Taesong Bank, is in charge of room 39, working as the keeper for Kim, and that only Kim, Choe and North Korean Ambassador to Switzerland Yi Chol are aware of Kim's secret accounts.

North Korea's foreign currency earning institutions, including Chokwang, have accounts at a branch office of a Chinese bank in Macao and a working-level official of the office withdraws some dollars in cash before settling accounts on Feb. 16 every year.

The official carries the bundle of dollars wrapped in a blue cloth and delivers them to Kim's office in Pyongyang.

"Kim keeps the money at Taesong or Kumsong after dividing them into a public or private use," Ko says.

Kumsong Bank is located in Strasse Kaiser in Vienna, Austria, and was founded on a 100-percent equity or capital of 30 million schillings (360 million yen) from Taesong Bank in early 1980.

Executives of the bank are senior executives of Taesong Bank while three officials, including a local employee, work at the bank.

The bank suffered consecutive deficits until 1987 and afterward began recording a profit.

Currently, the bank is capitalized at 100 million schillings. Some North Korea observers view that the unusual increase in capital might be made with the inflow of money from North Korea in the event of an emergency for Kim.

North Resumes Export of Iron Ore to Japan

SK2111061892 Seoul MAEIL KYONGJE SINMUN in Korean 19 Nov 92 p 7

[Report from Tokyo by correspondent Yi Ung-hwan]

[Text] North Korea has resumed exports of iron ore to Japan after a 17-year-long suspension. It was learned that Meihwa Industrial Company, a subsidiary of the Mitsubishi Company, imported 14,000 tons of iron ore from North Korea last September and sold it to Sumitomo Metal Industrial Company.

North Korea has plentiful iron ore deposits. It used to export 500,000 tons of iron ore to Japan every year until the mid-1970's when it stopped to barter its iron ore for China's oil.

It seems that North Korea is now able to resume exporting iron ore to Japan because they are now settling their oil accounts with China in cash, and that with this as an opportunity, they will try to expand iron ore exports to Japan.

The iron ore exported to Japan is magnetic iron ore, which is produced at Musan mine, and shipped from Chongjin port. The volume of business amounts to 37.7 million yen. Sumitomo Metal Industrial Company is now carrying out ore quality inspection at the Kogura ironworks. But, there will reportedly be some trouble because analysis results show that the iron ore contains a lot of impurities.

Effects of DPRK-Japan Normalization Viewed

SK2111143592 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 21 Nov 92 p 7

[Text] The establishment of diplomatic relations between North Korea and Japan is likely to bring more adverse than positive effects to inter-Korean economic cooperation, and measures should be taken as soon as possible to cope with this situation. The Korean Foreign Trade Association sponsored a seminar at the Korea Exhibition Center on 20 November entitled "The Effect of the Establishment of North Korean-Japanese Diplomatic Relations on Inter-Korean Economic Cooperation." Yi Chong-hun, professor of Chungang University, presented in his paper: If North Korea establishes diplomatic relations with Japan, we can anticipate such positive effects as the reduction of South Korea's burden in reunification and the possible increase of imports into North Korea as a result of North Korea's production base expansion.

Professor Yi, however, noted that the establishment of North Korean-Japanese diplomatic relations will lead to North Korea's increased imports from Japan, resulting in a decrease in our exports to North Korea. Among other adverse effects, Professor Yi listed likely keen competition between the ROK and Japan for investment in North Korea, the deterioration of inter-Korean technological cooperation, and obstacles to our trade with northern countries as a result of Japan's securing a bridgehead for the extension of its activities into the continent.

Inter-Korean competition for international markets will also be intensified. North Korea and Japan may attempt to check our resource development in northern countries such as China and Russia, thereby bringing long-term and indirect adverse effects. In view of these possibilities, Professor Yi noted a need for the formulation of measures to cope with these potential developments.

Nevertheless, Professor Yi noted the following positive effects as well: The establishment of diplomatic relations between North Korea and Japan will help ease tensions on the Korean peninsula. The increased activities of Japanese businesses in North Korea will promote North Korea's opening itself up and help North Korea expand its production base and social overhead capital.

DPRK's Hard Currency Payments to PRC Delayed

SK2211031192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0252 GMT 22 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 22 (YONHAP)—China held the plan of applying the hard currency settlement in trade with North Korea to calm down the Pyongyang government's backlash against the Seoul-Beijing diplomatic normalization, a government official said Sunday.

China intended to have adopted the payment system in hard currencies instead of open accounts in commodity exchanges with North Korea from this year but postponed it until next year considering Pyongyang's poor foreign currency holding.

The official who asked not to be named said that China decided to put off the hard currency settlement regime that was slated to be applied from next year to assuage North Korean angers over the Seoul-Beijing diplomatic recognition on Aug. 24 this year.

The two-way trade between China and North Korea amounted to 620 million U.S. dollars last year and it is now increasing further this year, the official said.

China notified North Korea of its decision recently, he said.

"North Korea will find time for breath from its economic difficulties by importing major goods including oil from China using open account payments," he said, adding that he can't tell until when China's postponement will be effective.

The Stalinist North Korea has suffered from the economic hardship since the disintegration of the former

Soviet Union and the East European communist countries in recent years, which were both the North's close trading partners.

The official said that North Korea can't buy oil from abroad except China these days because of insufficient hard currencies and that the energy shortage there is causing big troubles to the factory operation and even flight training in the military.

No's Brother-in-Law Officially Switches Parties

SK2111021792 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0130 GMT 21 Nov 92

[Text] Today, independent lawmaker Chong Ho-yong joined the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] and lawmaker Kim Pok-tong left the DLP to join the United People's Party [UPP]. Accordingly, the DLP has a total 162 seats, and the UPP has 35.

In a ceremony for joining the DLP, lawmaker Chong Ho-yong said that with the approach of elections that will decide the nation's fate, joining the DLP is the right path to take for the nation.

In the meantime, lawmaker Kim Pok-tong held a news conference at the UPP headquarters. He said that, judging DLP President Kim Yong-sam incapable of shouldering the next five years which are important to the 21st century, he decided to leave the DLP for the UPP.

No Expresses 'Regret' Over Kim Pok-tong Affair

SK2111032392 Seoul YONHAP in English 0308 GMT 21 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 21 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u on Saturday expressed regret over the trouble caused by his alleged bid to stop Rep. Kim Pok-tong from leaving the majority Democratic Liberal Party [DLP].

"I regret that (I) caused trouble with my family affair against my true will," No told a cabinet meeting at Chongwadae.

On Tuesday, tens of plainclothes policemen stopped Rep. Kim, No's brother-in-law, from reaching a press confab where he was to announce his desertion from the DLP.

"That incident was in every respect a family problem. The intent of myself and the administration to remain neutral in the current election remains firm," No told cabinet ministers.

His remarks were welcomed immediately by the Democratic Party, which had called for No's apology.

"No's remarks, though belated, would contribute to the resolution of the matter and we welcome that No reaffirmed his will for political neutrality," party spokesman Hong Sa-duk said.

No asked election-related cabinet officials to be impartial until the last minutes of the election and strictly prevent any acts of illegal electioneering.

He told the cabinet to be watchful against those committing crimes under cover of the election.

On this week's summit, No instructed the relevant cabinet officials to work out and implement ways to substantially expand bilateral cooperation on a long and multipronged basis, capitalizing on the friendly atmosphere fostered by Russian president Boris Yeltsin's visit to Korea.

Prime minister Hyon Sung-chong said that the election atmosphere had taken the hoped-for direction.

"But we have prepared a set of firm measures to cope with possible election irregularities," Hyon said.

Burma

61 Karen Insurgents Surrender in Southeast

BK2011150792 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] KNU [Karen National Union] terrorist insurgents have been frequently engaging in destructive activities without apparent motive with the intent of maiming and killing innocent people. There is also racial and religious discrimination, torture, and trading for personal gains. Oppression and inequality in granting promotions also exists among the KNU organization.

Thus, 61 terrorist insurgents including men, women, and children, led by Company Commander Bo Letwe from the split KNDO [Karen National Defense Organization] terrorist insurgent faction, who have come to despise the KNU's irrational destructive activities, have surrendered together with arms and ammunition to the Thanbyuzayat regional military regiment at 1500 on 12 November.

The splinter group led by Bo Letwe, which has despised the KNU's discrimination and unjust policies, has been acting independently after the split but when the terrorist insurgents' destructive activities became unacceptable to them they decided to return to the legal fold together with their families.

Bo Letwe and his group were warmly welcomed with flower garlands by more than 3,000 townspeople from Thanbyuzayat and were cordially feted.

The terrorist insurgents surrendered together with a total of 23 asorted arms—two RPGs, four rockets and one (?tracer), one M-79 rocket launcher, four 40-mm grenades, one M-72 rocket launcher, two M-16 automatic rifles, one M-16 short bore rifle, two carbines, four BA-63 rifles, one BA-72 rifle, seven AK-47 assault rifles, one 38-mm revolver, one 0.22 pistol—and 319 rounds of assorted small arms ammunition.

Bo Letwe and his followers asked to be pardoned for the crimes and wrongdoings they have committed and pledged their full support and participation in the construction activities of the state. They also pledged their cooperation to work together with the defense services for the betterment of the people.

Karens Claim Battle Success Against Government

BK2111100592 Hong Kong AFP in English 0936 GMT 21 Nov 92

[TEXT] Bangkok, Nov 21 (AFP)—The Karen National Union (KNU) Saturday said its fighters had attacked government posts in southeastern Burma and killed nine soldiers.

The ethnic guerrilla group said in a statement sent to news agencies that its forces had attacked enemy positions in the Maw Wa Shu area on Thursday [19 November]. Three women also were killed in the fighting and 29 soldiers were wounded.

The statement did not give KNU casualties, but said its fighters seized numerous weapons and more than 100,000 rifle bullets.

The Karens are one of about a dozen ethnic minorities that have been fighting the Rangoon government for decades for greater autonomy.

Guerrillas Capture Hills From Government Troops

BK2311025392 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 23 Nov 92 p 6

[Text] Tak—Over 300 Karen guerrilla fighters seized two border hills from Burmese government troops after a three-hour battle near their camp opposite Mae Ramat District yesterday.

Officials said the Karens pounded Hills 243 and 277 with mortar shells and rockets. About 100 Burmese troops returned fire with machine-guns and mortars before retreating.

The Karens claim to have killed 36 Burmese troops. Three Burmese women were also killed in the fighting.

KNU [Karen National Union] sources said Karen casualties consisted of 3 dead and 14 wounded.

However troops from three Burmese army battalions opened fire on the hills later in the day in a prelude to a ground offensive designed to recapture the sites from the guerrilla fighters.

The hills are located in front of the Karen's Mawpasu camp which is opposite Huay Pakkong village in Mae Ramat.

Delegation Returns From Border Meeting in Thailand

BK2111151392 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 21 Nov 92

[Text] Myanmar [Burmese] delegation leader Major General Maung Aye, member of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] of Union of Myanmar [Burma] and commander of the eastern military command; Brigadier General Ket Sein, commander of the southeast military command; U Nyunt Swe, deputy minister for foreign affairs, and a further 14 members of the delegation arrived in Rangoon from Thailand on an armed forces' aircraft this evening, after attending the seventh joint meeting of Myanmar-Thai regional border committee held in Chiangmai, Thailand.

The delegation was welcomed at Rangoon airport by Maj. Gen. Tin U, secretary-2 of the SLORC; Brig. Gen. Maung Maung, minister for livestock breeding and fisheries; Brig. Gen. Maung Sint, commander of air base No. 502; and responsible personnel from the Defense Ministry and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

While in Thailand, the Myanmar delegation led by Major General Maung Aye, member of the SLORC and commander of the eastern military command, discussed matters related to the Myanmar-Thai regional border and bilateral relation with leaders from the Thai Armed Forces.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Singapore

Defense Minister Says No ASEAN Arms Race

BK2011131192 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 20 Nov 92 p 20

[Text] Singapore's Defence Minister, Dr Yeo Ning Hong says increased defence expenditures and procurements by the six members of Asean do not constitute participation in a regional arms race.

Dr Yeo cautioned, however, that if an arms race in the Asia-Pacific region was to be averted, the administration of President-elect Bill Clinton should remain committed to maintaining a strong US military presence.

Dr Yeo made the remarks in a recent interview with Kyodo news service in Tokyo.

"None of us in Asean see these expenditures as an arms race," he said, echoing assurances voiced recently by other Asean member states—Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines and Brunei.

"Economic growth as a general rule permits a country to modernise its armed forces," he said. He added that gradual upgrading and replacement of outdated weapons systems were essential for Asean's forces to have credibility.

Linking increased defence expenditures and procurements to an increased financial wherewithal achieved during the high-growth 80s, Dr Yeo acknowledged Asean concerns over the prospect of US isolationism and China's power projection in the South China Sea.

He said they also reflected Asean members' efforts to maximise the region's attraction as a stable haven for foreign capital.

"If we in Asean, being so much dependent on foreign investment, do not spend enough to ensure the stability of all of our countries and of the region as a whole, almost certainly we'll become less attractive to international investors from Japan, Europe and America," he said.

Growth of military expenditures in the Asia-Pacific region is reported to have surpassed that in all other regions in the mid-to-late 80s.

Singapore's expenditures have more than doubled over the last decade.

Dr Yeo warned that any "sharp and significant" withdrawal of the US military presence from the region "would create a vacuum that a number of other regional powers would seek to fill, and fill very rapidly".

"Japan," he said, "is one country that will obviously be very concerned if the US were to quietly pull out in large numbers."

The Defence Minister envisaged a "horrendous" scenario in which the Japan-US defence relationship would come under severe strain.

This would spark region-wide concern over how Japan would seek to ensure its security in the absence of confidence in the protection long afforded it under the US nuclear umbrella.

Increased defence expenditures by Japan, he said, would cause tremendous discomfort in neighbouring China and in the Koreas while Russia would be inclined to divert more resources to military.

Dr Yeo said such a scenario was "rationally" unlikely as Mr Clinton and his foreign policy team were generally believed to recognise the importance of continued US involvement in the economically vibrant Asia-Pacific region.

"But then in politics, the irrational can happen," he said, warning that strong domestic pressures could force the Clinton administration to become inward-looking and isolationist.

It could also become protectionist and concerned more with short-term domestic economic improvement than long-term global prosperity, he noted.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Croatia

BK2311121492 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1100 GMT 23 Nov 92

[Text] Singapore and the Republic of Croatia have established diplomatic relations. A Singapore Foreign Ministry statement says the move comes as a result of both governments wanting to strengthen and develop friendly relations.

Cambodia

PDK Official on Conditions for Joining Polls

BK2111023892 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] On 14 November at a meeting with General Sanderson, UNTAC [United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia] military commander in Phnom Penh, the representative of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] in the Mixed Military Working Group said that as long as UNTAC implements the two key and major points of the Paris agreement as stated in the PDK 22 August 1992 proposal, they will be happy to take part in elections.

The PDK representative recalled the essence of the PDK's 22 August proposal as follows:

1. A role for the Supreme National Council [SNC] as the legitimate and sole source of power in Cambodia during the transitional period;

2. UNTAC and the SNC cooperate in ensuring that all Vietnamese aggressor forces are withdrawn from Cambodia and that these forces do not return.

UN Security Council Urged To Punish Vietnam

BK1611050192 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 15 Nov 92

[Text] It has been reported that the UN Security Council will soon hold a meeting to discuss the implementation of the Paris agreement in Cambodia.

How has the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement been implemented in Cambodia?

The Cambodian people's suffering since the signing of the Paris agreement is as follows:

1. The Yuon [Vietnamese] aggressor forces which have occupied Cambodia for the past 13 year prior to the signing of the Paris agreement, are still continuing their aggression and occupation of Cambodia. They have sent more forces to Cambodia and have continued to cruelly suppress the Cambodian people and patriotic forces, particularly at the beginning of the current 15th dry season.

2. Yuon settlers who were systematically sent to Cambodia since they began their aggression and occupation of Cambodia on 25 December 1978 have not been allowed to be returned home. Yuon settlers also continue to plunder land, farms, homes, villages, and property of the Cambodian people and nation.

3. In addition to this, since the signing of the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement, the Yuon aggressors have sent and are sending more settlers to Cambodia. Both the old and new Yuon settlers have plundered and continue to plunder land, farms, homes, villages, and property of the Cambodian people and nation. This has caused serious suffering and destruction to the Cambodian people.

The number of both old and new Yuon settlers is now over two million. This is one-forth of the entire Cambodian population.

This is a grave danger to the Cambodian nation and people.

4. The Yuon aggressors have ordered their puppets to give Cambodian nationality to nearly one million of the settlers who keep flowing into Cambodia daily. Their purpose is to enable these settlers to take part in the Cambodian elections.

Are these Yuon activities not a gross violation of the UN Charter, Paris agreement, and 12 August 1949 Geneva Accord which bans Yuon aggressors from sending Yuon settlers to Cambodia?

So, what measures should the UN Security Council take with the Yuon who are grossly trampling on the UN Charter, 23 October 1991 Paris agreement, and 12 August 1949 Geneva Accord?

The UN Security Council should punish the Yuon and demand that they respect and abide by the Paris agreement and withdraw all categories of Yuon aggressor forces from Cambodia. The UN Security Council should punish the Yuon according to Chapter 7 of the UN Charter because Yuon aggression against Cambodia has affected peace and stability in Southeast Asia.

For its part, the party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] has time and again proposed through various announcements and His Excellency Khieu Samphan's statements, a correct and impartial implementation of the entire 23 October 1991 Paris agreement.

The PDK has also made successive proposals to contribute to solving the current deadlock, particularly the PDK's two-point proposal dated 22 August 1992.

State Council's Say Phuthang Meets U.S. Envoy

BK2211084792 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 22 Nov 92

[Text] At the office of the Council of State, His Excellency Say Phuthang, member of the standing committee of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] Central Committee, chairman of the CPP Central Committee's Control Commission, and vice chairman of the Council of State, on 19 November received Charles Twining, special representative of the United State in Cambodia, to discuss a number of situations.

On this occasion H.E. Say Phuthang talked about the process to implement the Paris agreement, in which the CPP and the State of Cambodia Government are actively and sincerely continuing to implement no more and no less the Paris accord to find genuine peace for the Cambodian people. H.E. Say Phuthang stressed that so far the Khmer Rouge have refused to implement the Paris peace agreement. Furthermore, in the second phase of the cease-fire, this side has refused to implement the accord and has prolonged the war and the suffering of the Cambodian people.

Replying, Charles Twining affirmed that the United States will do everything it can so that Cambodia has genuine peace in the near future.

UN's Butrus-Ghali Cited on 'Foreign Forces'

BK2111021292 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] In a report to the United Nations Security Council, UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali says that there is evidence confirming that foreign forces still remain on Cambodian territory.

The foreign forces the UN secretary general refers to in this report are Vietnamese aggressor forces that are still committing aggression against and occupying Cambodia. There have been successive reports saying that the Hanoi Vietnamese have been sending Vietnamese cadres and nationals, who have been systematically set up in Vietnam, to Cambodia in accordance with a policy to Vietnamize Cambodia.

The Cambodian people reserve the right, as a victim, to fight resolutely against Vietnamese aggressors and not allow Vietnam to annex Cambodia militarily and through Vietnamese nationals.

UN's Butrus-Ghali Authorizes Presidential Polls

BK2111094692 Hong Kong AFP in English 0926 GMT 21 NOV 92

[By Sheri Prasso]

[Text] Phnom Penh, Nov 21 (AFP)—The U.N. secretary general's report on Cambodia authorizes presidential elections not foreseen by the peace treaty ending the Cambodian civil war, and diplomats here say they are likely to be held at the same time as U.N.-run legislative elections next year.

Butrus Butrus-Ghali's report seen here Saturday also opposes putting sanctions on the radical Khmer Rouge faction—which is refusing to comply with the peace accords—citing in part the impracticality of enforcement.

"I have hitherto favored patient diplomacy and I continue to believe that this is the best means of getting the peace process back on track," he said.

A presidential election—with Prince Norodom Sihanouk the clear front-runner for head of state—would require more money from donor states and the go-ahead from the U.N. Security Council, according to the report.

"Everybody is ready to accept that the presidential elections be held at the same time as the constituent assembly elections," said a diplomat whose country is one of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council.

But the big question rests on the mercurial attitude of Prince Sihanouk who is currently in Beijing brooding over the impasse in the Cambodian peace process. Diplomats here say he has postponed his scheduled return to Cambodia, prompting U.N. peacekeeping chief Yasushi Akashi to send him a praise-filled letter asking him to come back.

Prince Sihanouk said before he left that he refused to run for president because his advice was not being utilized to solve the problems posed by the Khmer Rouge's refusal to participate.

The Phnom Penh government, which wanted the presidential election in the first place, then said it would not participate in any elections unless Prince Sihanouk was a candidate for president.

All four previously warring Cambodian factions have backed him as head of state and he is likely to win any election he contests in due to his popularity among the Cambodian people.

The U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC)—the world's largest peacekeeping operation—is charged with holding free and fair elections in this war-shattered country before May 1993.

But it has realized it must bring the Khmer Rouge, who are holding out for more political power, back into the process or hold risky elections without them in a country where just about every man has a gun.

"I share (France and Indonesia's) assessment that the holding of a presidential election would contribute to the process of national reconciliation."

It would also "help to reinforce the climate of stability which will be needed during the delicate period when the constitutent assembly will have the task of drafting and adopting the new Cambodian constitution," Butrus-Ghali's report said without giving a timeframe.

"I have therefore asked my special representative to make contingency plans for the organization and conduct of such an election by UNTAC," it said.

Butrus-Ghali's report made it clear that the two billion dollar budget forecast for the operation will not be sufficient, especially if the presidential elections are held.

Already, UNTAC is costing 100 million dollars per month, the report said.

In addition, he proposed leaving all 20,000 U.N. personnel in Cambodia until the elections. Originally the plan was to have the military battalions withdraw as soon as they disarmed all Cambodia's soldiers and demobilized most of them.

But because the Khmer Rouge have refused to cooperate, that plan has failed. Butrus-Ghali recommended that the U.N. troops be redeployed to protect voter registrars and polling sites.

"The financial implications of this adjustment will be detailed in my forthcoming report to the General Assembly on the financing of UNTAC," he said.

UN Peacekeeping Forces Chief Told of Corruption

BK2111095692 Hong Kong AFP in English 0930 GMT 21 NOV 92

[Text] Kampot, Cambodia, Nov 21 (AFP) —Corruption by local Phnom Penh government officials is rampant and incidents of political harassment of opposition parties is on the rise, the head of the U.N. peacekeeping forces has been told.

Yasushi Akashi was on a day-long inspection of three southern provincial capitals—Sihanoukville, Kampot and Takeo—to meet with his U.N. staff there.

Sihanoukville and Kampot were singled out for being administered by "corrupt local officials" with their "hands in the till," U.N. officials said.

"These are grave cases of corruption involving hundreds of thousands of dollars," said one, adding that the governor of Sihanoukville was a major culprit.

One senior official in that southern port town said: "This is an affluent community ... Where else do you see Mercedes Benz and (Toyota) Camrys (in) such a poor country.

"There's still a lot of corruption on the wharf ... that's why they are rich," the official said.

Akashi was also told that registration of voters for next year's U.N.-supervised elections is exceeding expectations.

"I regret to see that still there are some political threats, intimidation and occasionally even some killings," Akashi told a group of local government U.N. military and civilian officials here in Kampot, 180 kilometers (110 miles) south of Phnom Penh.

Akashi said he was "very disquieted by news of murders of people with political affiliations."

A U.N. investigation into the murder of a non-communist Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) faction worker in Sihanoukville in August found that it was "probably politically motivated."

Only the radical Khmer Rouge have refused to join the U.N. elections, claiming any outcome would lead to a Vietnamese occupation of the country.

The United Nations is charged with holding free and fair elections before May 1993 to create a new government that can be recognized by the international community.

Akashi also travelled by helicopter to Takeo, the base for Japan's U.N. engineering battalion.

He said he was pleased to hear that eight political parties had established offices in the town.

"Little by little, they (Cambodians) are learning that the party and the state are not the same," the U.N. provincial director said.

PDK Spokesman's Communique on Peace Accord

BK2211090192 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 21 Nov 92

["Communique by the Spokesman of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea on the Accusation and Slander that Democratic Kampuchea Does Not Disarm and Does Not Take Part in the UN Peace Plan, and on the Truth About The One Who Does Not Allow the Supreme National Council To Have a Role and Does Not Check on Vietnamese Aggressor Forces;" date and place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] I. The Paris agreement contains the following major points:

1. The Supreme National Council [SNC] should have the role of the sole, legitimate source of power in Cambodia during the transitional period; there should be no other regime.

2. All types of foreign troops, that is, Vietnamese aggressor forces, should be checked and it should be ensured that they are all withdrawn from Cambodia and do not return;

3. There should be a control of the demobilization of 70 percent of all four Cambodian parties' armies in accordance with the agreement;

4. UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] should cooperate with the quadripartite SNC and implement the Paris agreement correctly and comprehensively in accordance with the essence of the agreement;

5. All kinds of conditions should be created for a neutral political atmosphere in Cambodia; and

6. General, free, democratic, proper, and just elections should be organized to enable the Cambodian people to exercise their sacred right of self-determination in choosing a new National Assembly and setting up a new national government in Cambodia.

II. Who is implementing the Paris agreement and who is not?

The truth is as follows:

1. The UNTAC Chief does not implement the Paris agreement; instead he implements an altered accord, not for the quadripartite SNC but only for one party, that is, to maintain Vietnamese aggressor forces and the Vietnam's puppet regime so that the UNTAC cooperates only with the latter.

The fact is that:

1. The SNC has not been allowed to have the role of the sole, legitimate source of power during the transitional period;

2. No control has been carried out to ensure that Vietnamese aggressor forces are withdrawn from Cambodia; laws have been passed to protect Vietnam and to allow the latter to freely send Vietnamese nationals to Cambodia;

3. UNTAC has made efforts to preserve Vietnamese aggressor forces and the regime which Vietnam propped up with guns in 1979 and then allowed to continue administering and running Cambodia. In other words, UNTAC has maintained and cooperated with only one party in Cambodia.

In such a situation, is there a neutral political atmosphere? Is there peace for the Cambodian people to decide their own destiny themselves through free and fair elections? No. On the contrary, insecurity is prevalent. Members of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front and the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia [FUNCINPEC] have been successively assassinated. More recently, grenades were thrown into the FUNCINPEC office in Battambang Province.

Can elections be held if Vietnam and the puppets can decide and do everything like this? This is completely against and in violation of the agreement.

III. Another serious mistake by UNTAC was to let Vietnam send its nationals at will to Cambodia. So far, there are over two million Vietnamese already, or one fourth of the current Cambodian population. A million of these Vietnamese already have Cambodian identity cards. This is an immense, most criminal, and most profound crime. It is the mother of all crimes because this eliminates and Vietnamizes the Cambodian race. Can the Cambodian people accept this? Any Cambodian with Cambodian blood absolutely cannot and will feverishly oppose it.

What are other countries in the region doing? Look at Vietnamese boat refugees fleeing to ASEAN countries. Tens of thousands of them have already caused problems to these countries. Tens of thousands of Vietnamese boat refugees in Hong Kong have not been allowed to stay there. In the case of Cambodia, whose population is only eight million, there are already over two million Vietnamese in the country, and many more coming in, should the Cambodian people bow to this and die?

This is a serious danger resulting from UNTAC not correctly implementing the Paris agreement to the letter.

IV. The PDK has made all efforts to cooperate right from the beginning with General (Wadset), Gen. (Suma), UNAMIC [UN Advance Mission in Cambodia], and UNTAC to comprehensively implement the Paris agreement, including the two key and major points, namely, to enable the SNC to have the role as the sole, legitimate source of power in Cambodia to the exclusion of other regimes, and to ensure the withdrawal of Vietnamese aggressor forces from Cambodia.

V. An overwhelming number of diplomats, 90 percent of good UNTAC staff, and the Cambodian people in and outside the country hold that UNTAC Chief is in the wrong. He has collaborated with Vietnam and the puppets while Democratic Kampuchea [DK] has behaved correctly in accordance with the agreement. This explains why:

1. The Cambodian people assist and support DK and hate UNTAC from what they have witnessed over the past year;

2. Cambodian people abroad also hold that DK has correctly implemented the agreement. The UNTAC chief has not implemented the accord; this is 100 percent wrong. Whatever he has done was for Vietnam and the puppets in order to kill the Cambodian nation and people.

3. The majority of UNTAC staff also hold that the UNTAC chief is not implementing the Paris agreement. They also hold that DK has correctly behaved in accordance with the agreement; however, they cannot do anything since they are under the UNTAC chief and paid by UNTAC.

4. Peace and justice-loving countries the world over also realize that DK has behaved correctly so as to enable Cambodia to have independence and peace and to ensure peace, security, and stability in the entire region. They also clearly see that the UNTAC chief has violated the Paris agreement and used his rights and power to go against the law and the Paris agreement.

6. DK has again and again clearly said that all the clauses of the Paris agreement should be implemented comprehensively in the military and civilian aspects, with two points as the key ones. First, the SNC should have the role of the sole, legitimate source of power during the transitional period; there should be no other regime. Second, all types of Vietnamese aggressor forces should be checked and ensured that they are withdrawn from Cambodia and do not return under any forms.

However, a year has passed; the UNTAC Chief, the Vietnamese aggressors, and the puppets have not said a word about the role of the SNC and about the check on Vietnamese aggressor forces. Instead, they have grossly accused DK of not disarming, not entering the second phase, and not taking part in the UN peace plan.

Words and actions are as clear as daylight:

1. DK has made it clear in its statement and has correctly implemented the Paris agreement;

2. The UNTAC Chief and the bad elements in and outside UNTAC, in cooperation with the Vietnamese aggressors and the puppets, have not spoken clearly and have acted quite contrary to the Paris agreement.

Over the past year, the Cambodian people in and outside the country along with peace- and justice-loving opinion the world over know who are good and who are bad; no one can dupe them.

More on Chea Sim's Activities in Japan

BK2111084392 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 21 Nov 92

["Report on the Activities of His Excellency Chea Sim in Japan"]

[Text] Starting from 1500 on 18 November 1992 at the New Otani Hotel, His Excellency [H.E.] the chairman of the National Assembly held separate talks with H.E. Ishida, chairman of the Komeito party; H.E. Tanabe, chairman of the Social Democratic party; and a delegation from the Japanese city of Kanazawa.

At the talks the Japanese side welcomed the visit by our State of Cambodia [SOC] delegation and reaffirmed its continued contribution to the Cambodian peace process and the process of rehabilitating and reconstructing Cambodia. The Japanese political personalities highly valued the SOC side for its energetic efforts in concretely and sincerely implementating the peace accord.

H.E. the national assembly chairman briefed his guests on the current situation in Cambodia, saying the SOC side is the core force in the implementation of the peace accord. However, the present obstacles and difficulties have been created by the intransigent Khmer Rouge, who continue to exclude themselves from the framework of the peace accord, ignoring the Cambodian people's supreme interests, the cause of peace, and national reunification in the country. He thanked the Japanese Government for having dispatched its peacekeeping force on a mission to Cambodia in the name of UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia]—making an important contribution to the execution of the peace agreement in Cambodia—and also for its involvement in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Cambodia.

The talks were held in a cheerful and cordial atmosphere in a spirit of the closest friendship and cooperation.

At 0830 on the morning of 19 November, H.E. Sakurauchi, speaker of the Japanese Diet, had breakfast with H.E. Chea Sim. They exchanged ideas on the bilateral relations between Cambodia and Japan and the progress in implementing the Cambodian peace accord. The two chairmen were unanimous in the need to promote the relationship and cooperation between the two countries. H.E. Sakurauchi reaffirmed that Japan would continue to actively take part in the Cambodian peace process and the process of restoring and rebuilding the country.

For his part, H.E. Chea Sim warmly thanked the Japanese Government and people for having made an important contribution to helping the Cambodian people to achieve their ultimate goal, that is, peace and development.

The discussion ended in an atmosphere of gaiety and cordiality.

Chea Sim-Led Delegation Returns Home 23 Nov

BK2311142692 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 23 Nov 92

[Text] At 1600 on 23 November, the high-ranking delegation of the party and the State of Cambodia [SOC] Government led by His Excellency [H.E.] Chea Sim, chairman of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] and chairman of both the National Assembly and the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense, safely returned home after a 10-day visit to the Kingdom of Japan, Hong Kong, and the Kingdom of Thailand.

Greeting the high-ranking delegation at Pochentong International Airport were their excellencies standing committee members of the CPP Central Committee, including H.E. Say Phuthang; H.E. Sar Kheng, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and interior minister; H.E. Kong Sam-ol, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; H.E. Mat Ly, vice chairman of both the National Assembly and the Control Commission of the CPP Central Committee; Men Sam-an, chairman of the Cambodian Federation of Trade Unions; H.E. Ney Pena, vice chairman of the Control Commission of the CPP Central Committee; H.E. Sim Ka, chairman of both the Phnom Penh municipal party committee and people's committee; and H.E. General Pol Saroeun, deputy defense minister and chief of staff of the Cambodian People's Army.

H.E. Gen. Pan Thai, adviser to the chairman of the SOC Council of Ministers; ministers; deputy ministers; directors general; deputy directors general; and many other leading officials were also present. H.E. Yukio Imagawa, ambassador of the Kingdom of Japan to Cambodia, also greeted the delegation on this occasion.

Sihanouk Receives Greetings From Mitterrand

BK2011063392 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 20 Nov 92

["Message of Greetings" to Prince Norodom Sihanouk from French President Francois Mitterrand; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] Your Royal Highness the Prince: I am very pleased to extend best wishes for good health and warm happiness to the entire Cambodian people—who have been reconciled thanks to your highness—and also to you on your birthday. On this joyous occasion, France asks to be allowed to join Cambodia in extolling you for your tireless efforts to achieve a new reunification under your august leadership and to adopt a difficult but indispensable course, a course toward peace after 20 years of anguish. I would like to reaffirm the relations that the French people have reserved for the dignitary state leader.

May Cambodia, with whom France will spare no effort to strengthen friendly relations and to whom France will continue to render support, enjoy a lasting benefit acquired thanks to your wisdom. Later, Cambodia will be able to witness, via a free election, a link between itself and the father of the Cambodian nation.

Chea Sim Receives Greetings From SRV Party

BK2111040292 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] The Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee recently sent a message of greetings to His Excellency Chea Sim, chairman of the Cambodian People's Party Central Committee. The message says in essence:

On your 60th birthday, the CPV Central Committee would like to express to your excellency best and warmest wishes. May you enjoy good health and success in your noble task in the new phase. May the relations of traditional friendship between the two parties and the two countries' people get stronger and stronger and expand day by day.

CPP Sends Condolences to Acting Lao President

BK2211144092 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 22 Nov 92

["Message of Condolences from the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] Central Committee to His Excellency Nouhak Phoumsavan, acting president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and chairman of the Lao Supreme People's Council"—dated 22 November; read by announcer]

[Text] To His Excellency [H.E.] Nouhak Phoumsavan, acting president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] and chairman of the Lao Supreme People's Council; Vientiane:

On behalf of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] Central Committee, the National Assembly, the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense [KUFNCD], the Government of the State of Cambodia [SOC], and the entire Cambodian people and in our own names, we would like to express our utmost grief and infinite sympathies over the loss of H.E. Kaysone Phomvihan, chairman of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] and president of the LPDR, whom the entire Lao people affectionately respect.

We consider H.E. Kaysone Phomvihan's demise—which constitutes an immeasurable loss for the Lao party, Government, front, and people—a disappearance of an eminent statesman of the world.

H.E. Kaysone Phomvihan is a hero, who has sacrificed his physical and spiritual strength to leading a struggle to surmount all manner of obstacles in order to liberate Laos and the Lao people from colonialists' oppressive yoke, rebuilding a Lao nation with independence, peace, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. Under the correct and clear-sighted 17-year leadership of H.E. Kaysone Phomvihan, the Lao party, Government, and people have scored great achievements in the implementation of the reform policy with a view to rebuilding and defending the Lao motherland. H.E. Kaysone Phomvihan's exploits have considerably contributed to expanding and consolidating the relations of friendship and solidarity and multifarious cooperation between Cambodia and Laos, thereby safeguarding peace in Asia and the world.

The CPP, the SOC Government, and the Cambodian people across the country would like to express profoundest gratitude to H.E. Kaysone Phomvihan and the Lao party, Government, and people for their tireless efforts in rendering moral and material assistance and support for the Cambodian people's struggle to get rid of the barbarous regime of the past, resulting in the signing of the Paris 23 October 1991 peace accord that aims at bringing about peace and national reunification for the Cambodian people under the intelligent and clear-sighted leadership of His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state, father of the nation, and chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC].

Although H.E. Kaysone Phomvihan has left our world, the traditional Cambodian-Lao relations of friendship and solidarity and cooperation remain intact and will be certainly further strengthened and developed.

We are firmly convinced that the LPRP Central Committee, the LPDR Government, the Lao front, and the Lao people from all strata will translate the bereavement into a determination to ultimately attain the objective of the reform policy adopted by the Lao party, Government, and people.

Your excellency, please, accept our highest regards.

[Dated] Phnom Penh, 22 November 1992.

[Signed] 1. Heng Samrin, honorary chairman of the CPP and chairman of the SOC State Council;

2. Chea Sim, chairman of the CPP, National Assembly, and KUFNCD National Council;

3. Hun Sen, vice chairman of the CPP, chairman of the SOC Council of Ministers, and SNC member.

Indonesia

Reportage on Capture of Fretilin Chief

Suharto Praises Military

BK2111064692 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0600 GMT 21 Nov 92

[Text] President Suharto has expressed his appreciation to all members of the security apparatus in East Timor for capturing alive Xanana Gusmao, leader of the Security Disturbing Movement [official term for the Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor, Fretilin]. The president, who is in Dakar, Senegal, to attend the G-15 [group of 15 developing countries] summit, expressed appreciation and congratulations after receiving a report from the General Headquarters of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Indonesia [ABRI] in Jakarta. Correspondent Joko Saksono reported from Dakar that Minister and State Secretary Murdiono said in a statement that Xanana Gusmao was undergoing intensive interrogation in Dili.

Meanwhile, Brigadier General Theo Syafei, commander of the East Timor Operations Command, said in Dili that the Fretilin leader would undergo a medical examination although he was not sick when he was captured. Xanana Gusmao, who masterminded the Dili incident on 12 November 1991, looked pale when he was captured by Red Berets at (Lahane) village, West Dili Subdistrict, at 0600 Central Indonesian Time yesterday because he was seldom exposed to the sun.

According to the ABRI Information Center in Jakarta, the captured communist leader will be tried in accordance with existing laws in Indonesia.

Gusmao Reportedly Offered To Negotiate

BK2111134692 Hong Kong AFP in English 1312 GMT 21 NOV 92

[Text] Jakarta, Nov 21 (AFP)—East Timorese guerrilla leader Jose Xanana Gusmao offered unsuccessfully to negotiate with his captors after his arrest this week, a well-informed Indonesian source said Saturday.

"Gusmao is not in a position to negotiate with anyone, he was captured and will probably be judged according to Indonesia's subversion laws," said the source, who participated in Gusmao's interrogation after his capture by the Indonesian army Friday.

"Very pale, even blanched, as a result of the conditions of his life as a fugitive in the East Timorese mountains, Gusmao did not seem in good condition, but he remained defiant. He still opposes the integration of East Timor into Indonesia," the source said by telephone from Dili.

Indonesian troops captured 45-year-old Gusmao, who has been engaged in a military struggle against Indonesia for 16 years, in a house in the suburbs of Dili, the capital of the former Portuguese colony.

The leader of the pro-independence Fretilin movement said he understood neither Indonesian nor English and insisted on replying in Portuguese to the questions put to him by the Indonesian authorities, the source said.

Gusmao is expected to be transferred to Jakarta, but in the meantime he is being held at a Dili army barracks.

Indonesia invaded East Timor in 1975 and annexed it in 1976, but the United Nations has not recognised the move and still regards Portugal as administrator of the territory.

Indonesian military authorities have reduced the number of Fretilin forces down to about 200 poorly armed men scattered in about ten groups hiding in the rugged central mountain range that runs the length of East Timor.

Capture Said To Bring 'Dilemma'

BK2211061892 Hong Kong AFP in English 0559 GMT 22 NOV 92

[By Bhimanto Suwastoyo]

[Text] Jakarta, Nov 22 (AFP)—The capture of East Timorese pro-independence leader Jose Xanana Gusmao has brought deep satisfaction to Indonesian authorities but also presented it with the dilemma of what to do next.

"Now that the hour of glory is past, Indonesia has to make sure that it makes no mistakes regarding Xanana (Gusmao)," a Western diplomat said.

After 16 years on the run, most of it at the head of the armed wing of the Revolutionary Front of Independent East Timor (Fretilin), Gusmao has become both a leader for and a symbol of the cause of pro-independentists [as received] in the former Portuguese colony which Jakarta annexed in 1976.

His picture and name figured prominently on posters and banners during a demonstration in Dili on November 12 last year which led to the death of scores of civilians after Indonesian troops shot into the crowd of demonstrators.

Gusmao was finally arrested during a raid by Indonesian troops on a house in west Dili in the early hours of Friday. Jakarta has since said that Gusmao was under "intensive questioning" and his case would be processed "according to prevailing laws and regulations."

An Indonesian sources in Dili has said the authorities had flatly rejected an offer for negotiations from Gusmao shortly after his arrest, saying that the detainee was in no position to demand such things.

Native-East Timorese Clementino dos Reis Amaral, a former member of the national team of investigation which probed last year's Dili massacre in East Timor, has warned during the weekend that officials should be careful when commenting on Gusmao, who was a charismatic leader for his followers.

His call was also echoed by former East Timorese Governor Mario Viegas Carrascalao who said "we should treat Xanana (Gusmao) wisely."

Lisbon, which severed diplomatic ties with Indonesia after troops invaded its former colony in 1975, has said it was prepared to grant Gusmao asylum.

Portuguese President Mario Soares has also sought the help of the United Nations, which also does not recognize Indonesian's sovereignty [as received] over East Timor, to intercede with Jakarta to prevent any ill-treatment of Gusmao.

International human rights organizations such as the London-based Amnesty International and the U.S.-based Asia Watch, have called on Jakarta to accord him humane treatment. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has made a demand to be allowed to meet with Gusmao, its representative said here.

Gusmao's arrest has also sparked a wave of protests in several Australian cities with demonstrators calling for action against Indonesia.

Indonesian Defence Minister Benny Murdani has reiterated that Gusmao would be treated in accordance with Indonesian laws, consistent with humanitarian considerations and international standards.

He has also been quoted as saying he believed Gusmao will face a criminal trial. In the past, Jakarta has charged pro-independentists, such as those in East Timor, in Aceh in Northern Sumatera and in the easternmost Indonesian province of Irian Jaya, with subversion, which carries death as the maximum penalty.

Murdani has said that Gusmao would be very likely to be taken out of East Timor and transferred elsewhere. Sources here said the authorities might soon transfer Gusmao either to Jakarta or Bali, which hosts the headquarters of the Udayana Military Command overseeing security in East Timor.

Papers Comment on Capture

BK2311101192 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0600 GMT 23 Nov 92

[From the press review]

[Text] SUARA KARYA, BERITA YUDHA, and PIKIRAN RAKYAT believe that the success of the East Timor Operations Command aided by the local population in capturing Xanana Gusmao, leader of Fretilin [Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor], who masterminded the Dili incident on 12 November 1991, was not insignificant. The capture of the Fretilin leader has succeeded in making the East Timor people realize that they should provide assistance and cooperation in eliminating the Fretilin remnants to enable the immediate restoration of peace and security in East Timor.

According to the three dailies, the capture of Xanana Gusmao will hopefully prompt the international community, particularly Portugal as an EC member, to think maturely and act wisely and pragmatically to enable the Indonesian Government to focus greater attention on the overall development of East Timor as well as to anticipate a possible resurgence of anti-Indonesian separatism.

The three dailies add that this event will have positive effects on Indonesia's efforts to settle the East Timor issue in international forums and dash the Fretilin's hopes for and dream of an independent East Timor separated from the unitary state of the Republic of Indonesia. The success of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Indonesia [ABRI] along with the people in controlling the youngest province won praises and the respect of President Suharto, who is now attending the G-15 [group of 15 developing countries], as well as political observers at home and abroad.

SUARA KARYA, BERITA YUDHA, and PIKIRAN RAKYAT say that the enhancement of cooperation between the ABRI and the people coupled with the acceleration of development and stability in the whole of East Timor will lead to the elimination of the Fretilin remnants.

'Source': Gusmao Moved To Bali

BK2311115292 Hong Kong AFP in English 1118 GMT 23 Nov 92

[Text] Jakarta, Nov 23 (AFP)—Jose Xanana Gusmao, the arrested leader of East Timor's independence movement Fretilin, was transferred to the Indonesian island of Bali over the weekend, a source said Monday.

A source in the East Timor capital Dili said: "Gusmao was transferred on Saturday to Denpasar," the capital of Bali which is the base for the military command that controls the former Portuguese colony annexed by Indonesia.

But the source could not say if Gusmao would then be moved to Jakarta.

The 45-year-old leader of the Fretilin guerrilla movement was arrested Friday in a suburb of Dili after evading Indonesian troops for 16 years.

Indonesian sources said after the arrest that Gusmao would likely be removed from East Timor to avoid the suspicion that he might be tortured there or an outbreak of anti-Indonesian demonstrations.

Armed Forces Spokesman General Hurhadi Purwosaoputro has repeatedly denied since Sunday that Gusmao had been brought to Jakarta.

The source in Dili said that "after his interrogation, Gusmoa will certainly be charged with subversion," a crime that carries the maximum penalty of death here. He would not be released and allowed to go into exile, as Portugal has suggested, the source said.

Indonesia annexed East Timor in 1976 but the United Nations still considers Portugal as the legitimate administrative power there pending a referendum on self-rule.

Several hundred guerrillas have been fighting in the island's central mountain range under Gusmao.

Malaysian Red Tape Increases Number of Illegals

BK2011102592 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 11 Nov 92 p 2

[Excerpts] Jakarta (JP)—Complicated bureaucratic procedures required by the Malaysian Government for issuing job order documents has contributed to the growing influx of illegal workers from Indonesia, an official says. Employers who need workers are forced to hire illegal laborers through brokers because it is too difficult to obtain job orders from the government, a spokesman of the Attorney General's Office, Suparman said.

The information was revealed during a two-day meeting of anti-smuggling teams in Samarinda, East Kalimantan, which was adjourned by Attorney General Singgih Tuesday, the spokesman said.

The meeting participants discussed smuggling issues, as well as problems associated with illegal workers, border crossers, fish poaching and illegal logging in Kalimantan and Sulawesi. [passage omitted]

Suparman said illegal workers from Indonesia travel to Malaysia by hiring illegally operated boats.

The meeting participants concluded it is necessary to intensify their campaigns to educate Indonesians on the legal requirements to work in Malaysia, informing potential laborers about the risks of working unlawfully in Malaysia. The meeting also called on Malaysia to take stronger action against the brokers and employers who hire the illegal workers.

This year's official figures listing the number and type of Indonesian workers in Malaysia was not available, but last year's numbers reportedly reached almost 500,000. Most of the laborers worked illegally on plantations and on construction projects. In the past two years Malaysia has cracked down on foreign illegal workers. [passage omitted]

Indonesia, Malaysia To Upgrade Border Cooperation

BK2111091592 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0700 GMT 21 Nov 92

[Text] Malaysia and Indonesian have agreed to upgrade their security cooperation along their common border—on land and along the coastline. The agreement was reached during the concluded four-day General Border Committee [GBC] meeting.

In a joint statement, Indonesia and Malaysia agreed to upgrade the quality of joint exercises between their armed forces, including search and rescue operational exercises, along their common border. The two countries also agreed to improve their coordination in solving socioeconomic problems along the common border.

The outcome of the concluded GBC meeting will be presented to the military chiefs of the two countries during next month's scheduled Malindo [Malaysia-Indonesia] General Border Committee meeting.

Joint Exercise With Singapore Begins in Java

BK2311121692 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1100 GMT 23 Nov 92

[Text] Some 110 officers and men from the Indonesian Army and the Singapore Armed Forces [SAF] are taking part in a joint bilateral land exercise in Central Java from today. The five-day [words indstinct] exercise was officiated by the Indonesian Army chief of staff, General Edi Sudrajat. The SAF chief of Army, Brigadier General Lim Neo Chian, will officiate the closing ceremony on Friday. The exercise is hosted by the Indonesian Army. It is part of a series aimed at strengthening ongoing bilateral ties and defense cooperation. The exercises began in 1989.

Laos

Announcement on President Kaysone Phomvihan's Death

BK2111131992 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 21 Nov 92

["Special announcement" issued by the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee, the Supreme People's Assembly, the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and the Lao Front for the National Construction Central Committee on the death of Kaysone Phomvihan]

[Text] The Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee, the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA], the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], and the Lao Front for National Construction [LFNC] Central Committee are deeply saddened to announce to all multiethnic compatriots of all strata, cadres, party members, and combatants of various armed forces that Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, chairman of the LPRP Central Committee, president of the LPDR, and beloved and respected leader of our Lao people passed away at 1123 [0423 GMT] on 21 November 1992 of his own illness. He was 72 years old.

Throughout the period of his illness, our party and state have attentively taken care of him and provided him with special medical treatment. A team of experienced physicians from both in and out of the country was set up and provided with the necessary tools in order to cure him and save his life. But, as his illness was too serious, the team of physicians failed to save his life and the comrade chairman passed away.

Comrade Chairman Kaysone Phomvihan was a good son of the multiethnic people and a hero of our Lao nation. He devoted all of his intelligence and energy to the national liberation cause as well as to our people's cause of defending and building the country throughout the past half century. He was an outstanding, talented, and clear-sighted leader of our party, state, and nation. He, together with the fellow members of the party Political Bureau and the Central Committee, led our people's revolution forward from one victory to new, ever greater victories, thus turning our country from a foreign colony into an independent country that now maintains a worthy role in the international arena. Comrade Chairman Kaysone Phomvihan was a true patriot and a close friend of various nations in the world. The passing of Comrade Chairman Kaysone Phomvihan is considered a very great loss for our Lao party, state, and people.

Dear compatriots, at this moment of profound sorrow and deep mourning, the LPRP Central Committee, the SPA, the Government, and the LFNC Central Committee of the LPDR hereby call on the compatriots of all tribes, all strata, cadres, party members, and combatants of the national defense and public security forces to turn their sorrowful sentiments into concrete revolutionary action, unite as one around the party Central Committee with the Political Bureau as its core, promote and expand the glorious traditions of the nation and the party, and together adhere to and determinedly implement in a principled manner the comprehensive restructuring line as initiated by Comrade Chairman Kaysone Phomvihan so as to translate it into reality and further build and expand the popular democratic system, thereby achieving the goal of building Laos into a peaceful, independent, democratic, unified, and prosperous country.

To express our profound gratitude to and deep mourning for Comrade Chairman Kaysone Phomvihan, the party Central Committee, the SPA, the governmment, and the LFNC Central Committee have agreed to announce a seven-day period of nationwide mourning.

National-Level Funeral Committee Set Up

BK2111141992 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 21 Nov 92

[Announcement on appointment of the nation-level funeral committee]

[Text] A national-level funeral committee has been set up. It comprises the following comrades:

1. Comrade Nouhak Phoumsavan, Political Bureau member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA], as chairman;

2. Comrade Khamtai Siphandon, Political Bureau member of the LPRP Central Committee and prime minister, as deputy chairman;

3. Comrade Phoun Sipaseut, Political Bureau member of the Party Central Committee and deputy prime minister, as member;

4. Comrade Maichantan Sengmani, Political Bureau member of the Party Central Committee and chairman of the Central Party and State Control Commission, as member;

5. Comrade Saman Vi-gnaket, Political Bureau member of the Party Central Committee and minister of education and sports, as member;

6. Comrade Oudom Khatthi-gna, Political Bureau member of the Party Central Committee and secretary of the municipal party committee, as member;

7. Comrade Choummali Sai-gnason, Political Bureau member of the Party Central Committee and minister of national defense, as member;

8. Comrade Somlat Chanthamat, Political Bureau member of the Party Central Committee and head of the Propaganda and Training Board of the Party Central Committee, as member;

9. Comrade Khamphoui Keoboualapha, Political Bureau member of the Party Central Committee and deputy prime minister, as member;

10. Comrade Thongsing Thammavong, Political Bureau member of the Party Central Committee and head of the Organizing Committee of the Party Central Committee, as member;

11. Comrade Osakan Thammatheva, member of the Party Central Committee and deputy minister of national defense, as member;

12. Comrade Maisouk Saisompheng, member of the Party Central Committee and chairman of the Lao Front for National Construction [LFNC] Central Committee, as member;

13. Comrade Boun-gnang Volachit, member of the Party Central Committee and secretary of the party committee of Savannakhet Province, as member;

14. Comrade Phao Bounnaphon, member of the Party Central Committee and minister attached to the Prime Minister's Office, as member;

15. Comrade Vongphet Saikeu-yachongtoua, member of the Party Central Committee and vice chairman of the LFNC Central Committee, as member;

16. Comrade Asang Laoli, member of the Party Central Committee and minister of interior, as member;

17. Comrade Khambou Sounisai, member of the Party Central Committee and minister of public health, as member;

18. Comrade Mrs. Onchan Thammavong, member of the Party Central Committee and chairperson of the Lao Women's federation, as member;

19. Comrade Khamsai Souphanouvong, member of the Party Central Committee and deputy minister of economy, planning, and finance, as member;

20. Comrade Chaleun Yiapaoheu, member of the Party Central Committee and member of the SPA Standing Committee, as member;

21. Comrade Khamman Sounvileut, member of the Party Central Committee and second secretary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Youth Union [LPRYU], as member;

22. Comrade Somsavat Lengsavat, member of the Party Central Committee and head of the Office of the Party Central Committee, as member; and

23. Comrade Bountan Souvannasouk, chairman of the Federation of Lao Trade Unions Central Committee, as member.

Regulations on Nationwide Mourning

BK2111135792 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 21 Nov 92

[Text] To express our profound gratitude to and grievous sorrow for Comrade Chairman Kaysone Phomvihan, the national-level funeral committee has issued regulations on the nationwide mourning as follows:

1. Organize mourning throughout the country for seven days, from 22 to 28 November. During the mourning period, no banquets, soirees, or entertainment programs of any type are allowed to be held.

2. Various party and state organizations and mass organizations from the central down to the grass-roots levels, embassies, consulates, and representation offices of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] in foreign countries are to fly the national flags at half-mast.

3. In the capital, Vientiane, arrangements will be made to pay homage to the remains for five days, from 23 to 27 November—from 0800 to 1200 for the morning session and from 1400 to 1700 for the afternoon session. Various organizations and services in the center and municipalities, business production units, educational institutes, and other organizations, as well as fraternal people and relatives near and far, are requested to arrange representatives to pay homage to the remains of Comrade Chairman Kaysone Phomvihan at the fixed times and dates mentioned above.

4. A national-level mourning ceremony will be organized on 28 November. Various provinces throughout the country are also requested to organize similar mourning ceremonies on the same days.

5. Embassies, consulates, representation offices of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] in foreign countries are requested to organize mourning ceremonies at their respective offices.

PASASON Issues Special Sunday Edition

BK2111143492 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 21 Nov 92

["Press release" of PASASON newspaper]

[Text] Tomorrow, Sunday, 22 November, PASASON, organ of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee, will publish a special issue, and from 23 November, it will publish ordinary issues as usual. You are, therefore, informed and requested to follow.

Editorial Mourns Kaysone

BK2211041492 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 22 Nov 92

[Editorial: "Let Us Turn Sorrowful Sentiments and Grievous Mourning Into Concrete Revolutionary Action and Determinedly Implement Instructions of Chairman Kaysone Phomvihan"]

[Text] At 1123 on 21 November 1992, Chairman Kaysone Phomvihan passed away, leaving us behind forever. His passing is considered a very great loss for our entire Lao party, Army, and people. Chairman Kaysone Phomvihan has left with our nation and people his outstanding achievements and great, meritorious deeds. His life and activities throughout the past half-century have closely related to the cause of our nation and party. Chairman Kaysone Phomvihan was a great patriot who was profoundly loyal to the revolutionary ideals and national interests. He was a talented and clear-sighted leader who devoted all his intelligence and energy to the struggle for national independence, freedom, and the welfare of the multiethnic Lao people, as well as for prosperity for the country. Chairman Kaysone Phomvihan, together with other comrade leaders of the party, made a significant contribution to leading our people by carrying out the ferocious and protracted, but elegant and glorious struggle, thus winning a historic victory by completely liberating the country and establishing the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] on 2 December 1975.

Since then, as leader of the ruling party and of an independent country, Chairman Kaysone Phomvihan had greatly concentrated his intelligence and energy on seeking appropriate lines, plans, policy, measures, and advanced steps to fulfill the cause of defending and building the country. Comrade Chairman Kaysone Phomvihan was the founder of the new line of thinking. He initiated the comprehensive restructuring line in Laos. He was also the one who seriously guided concrete implementation of the new restructuring line. As a result, the restructuring cause in our country has been successfully and satisfactorily carried out. Comrade Chairman Kaysone Phomvihan devoted his life to the noble, glorious cause of our nation and party.

Chairman Kaysone Phomvihan, our beloved and respected leader, has left us forever. But his model meritorious deeds, ethics, and noble cause will remain forever with our party, nation, and people. At this moment of sorrowful sentiments and grievous mourning, let our compatriots of all tribes, people of all strata, cadres, party members, and combatants of all national defense and public security forces turn the sorrow and mourning into revolutionary action and be determined to firmly and consistently implement orders and instructions of Chairman Kaysone Phomvihan. Let all of us maintain firm consciousness, heighten the spirit of revolutionary endurance, uphold confidence in the party with the Central Committee and the Political Bureau as the leading core, and continue to resolutely and thoroughly carry out the party's comprehensive restructuring line as initiated and guided by Chairman Kaysone Phomvihan. Let our multiethnic compatriots promote and expand the traditions of solidarity and harmony and the spirit of loving and helping each other, unite in maintaining public security in their respective villages and be industrious and active in boosting production to bring wealth and prosperity to families and the nation.

Party committees, administrations, fronts for national construction, and mass organizations at various levels are requested to enhance the solidarity and unification as never before, perform tasks in accordance with their respective roles, rights, and responsibilities in a loyal spirit, resolutely check all acts that disrupt internal solidarity and sow division between the party and administration and the people, and do away with all negative phenomena. Let cadres and party members of various services and various levels promote and expand patriotic spirit through revolutuionary action, enhance the sense of responsibility toward assigned duties, and endeavor to overcome all obstacles and difficulties to fulfill their respective tasks. Everyone is requested to follow the ethical example of beloved and respected Chairman Kaysone Phomvihan by serving the nation and people in a loyal and faithful spirit. Cadres and combatants in all national defense and public security Armed Forces throughout the country are requested to uphold vigilance and always be prepared to check and smash schemes to create disturbances and all acts of sabotage and subversion of hostile powers to guarantee the maintenance of stability and public security of the country.

Aliens residing and earning their living in the LPDR are requested to understand the sorrowful sentiments of the Lao people on this occasion and to appropriately carry out their activities in accordance with the laws and regulations of the country.

To express profound love, respect, and gratitude to Chairman Kaysone Phomvihan, let all of us unite as one ever more firmly and positively implement the two strategic tasks of defending and building the country in order to a build peaceful, independent, democratic, unified, and propserous Laos.

Religious Rites Held

BK2311095192 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0500 GMT 23 Nov 92

[Text] As we have already reported, at 1123 on 21 November, Chairman Kaysone Phomvihan, our greatly respected and beloved leader passed away, leaving us behind forever.

On 22 November, the national-level funeral committee moved the remains of Chairman Kaysone Phomvihan to the National Assembly for the traditional lying-in-state ceremony and religious rites, as well as for national-level official mourning ceremonies.

On the occasion, party and government leaders, various strata of monks, intellectuals, senior revolutionaries, representatives of people of various strata in Vientiane city, gathered at the National Assembly to help arrange and decorate the hall used for lying-in-state with feelings of profound gratitude and grievous sorrow over the passing away of the chairman.

On the same day, religious rites began. Lunch was offered to 22 monks from various Buddhist monasteries. After receiving alms, the monks chanted blessings for the soul of the late Chairman Kaysone Phomvihan. Later at 1730, 22 monks from various temples chanted a matika prayer before the remains of the chairman.

The public will be able to officially pay their last respects to the remains of the late chairman from 23 to 27 November, as previously announced by the funeral committee.

Party, State Leaders Pay Respects

BK2311145992 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 23 Nov 92

[Text] From 0900 this morning, party and government leaders, representatives of various organizations, committees, and mass organizations from the center, and members of the administrative committee of Vientiane Municipality went to the National Assembly to lay wreaths and pay their last respects to the remains of the late respected and beloved Chairman Kaysone Phomvihan, who left us behind amid the grievous sorrow of all the people as well as throughout the Army and among all the nationalists.

The ceremony of paying respects and laying wreaths expressing condolences on the soul of Chairman Kaysone Phomvihan was led by the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee headed by Nouhak Phoumsavan, member of LPRP Central Committee Political Bureau, followed by the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] Standing Committee led by Thongsing Thammavong, vice chairman of the SPA, and members of the Lao Government led by Deputy Prime Minister Khamphoui Keoboualapha.

Next in line at the ceremony were leading officials from the National Defense Ministry, the Interior Ministry, the Lao Front for National Construction Central Committee, the Lao People's Revolutionary Youth Union, Lao Youth Pioneers, the Federation of Lao Womens Unions, the Federation of Lao Trade Unions, the Office of the Party Central Committee, the President's Office, the Organization Board of the party Central Committee, the Party-State Control and Inspection Board, the Propaganda and Training Board of the party Central Committee, and the Grass-Roots Building Board of the party Central Committee.

In the afternoon starting from 1500, continuing the ceremony of paying last respects to and laying wreaths before the remains of Chairman Kaysone Phomvihan were leading officials of the Prime Minister's Office; the Foreign Economic Relations Ministry; the Foreign Affairs Ministry; the Education and Sports Ministry; the Economy, Planning, and Finance Ministry; the Communications, Transport, Posts, and Construction Ministry; the Agriculture and Forestry Ministry; the Trade and Tourism Ministry; the Public Health Ministry; the Industry and Handicrafts Ministry; the Science and Technology Ministry; the Administrative Committee of Vientiane Municipality; the National Bank of the LPRP; the National Social Science Study Committee; [words indistinct]; and the People's Supreme Court.

The ceremony of paying last respects to and laying wreaths before the remains of Chairman Kaysone Phomvihan will continue until 27 November.

Saravane, SRV's Quang Tri Discuss Cooperation

BK2111063892 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 21 Nov 92

[Text] The delegations of leading officials of Saravane Province and the SRV's Quang Tri Province met in Saravane on 16 November to discuss, exchange views, and draw lessons from experiences in cooperation between the two provinces.

The consultations were held during the visit to Saravane Province by the high-level delegation of the Vietnamese province.

Both sides unanimously agreed not only to intensify their cooperation but also to place an emphasis on improving the quality and efficiency of cooperation on the basis of mutual interests.

The cooperation covers various fields including agriculture and forestry, transport and communications, and trade and tourism.

The two provinces set a target to join forces in carrying out businesses in such fields more efficiently, thus contributing to a new quality of gradually strengthening relations between the two countries.

Furthermore, the two provincial delegations also signed a memorandum on the agreement.

Philippines

Ramos Approves Unilateral Five-Day Cease-Fire

HK2111023592 Quezon City ABC-DWET Television in English 1300 GMT 20 Nov 92

[From the "ABC-DWET News Program"]

[Text] President Ramos today approved the five-day unilateral cease-fire proposal of the National Unification Commission. The president said the cessation of hostilities is without prejudice to normal law enforcement operations. The cease-fire covers Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and from 31 December to 2 January next year.

Rebel Leader Says NUC Failed To Prove 'Sincerity'

HK2111023992 Quezon City ABC-DWET Television in Tagalog 1000 GMT 20 Nov 92

[From the "ABC-DWET News Program"]

[Text] The National Unification Commission [NUC] has not made concrete moves to show the government's sincerity in pushing the peace process. This is the view of detained General Edgardo Abenina, who will lead the rightist rebel panel in the peace talks.

Abenina said the government has not yet acted on the request of rightist and leftist rebels to free all political detainees. He explained that this will serve as the signal that the government is sincere in its pursuit of peace. NUC Chairperson Haydee Yorac said yesterday she saw better prospects for the peace process among the rebel soldiers.

Earlier today, the Quezon City Regional Trial Court reset the hearing on Abenina's rebellion case, based on the NUC's directive.

[Begin Abenina recording in English] I heard Commissioner Haydee Yorac state that the peace process between the government and the RAM [Nationalist Revolutionary Alliance] will be much easier to undertake. I hope she is right. [end recording]

Ramos Comments on U.S. Request To Deny Amnesty

HK2111090792 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 21 Nov 92

[Text] President Fidel V. Ramos has said he would apply a hands-off policy regarding the U.S. Embassy's request for the government not to grant amnesty to detainees involved in the killing of U.S. nationals in the country, particularly Colonel Nick Rowe. Ramos made the clarification after U.S. Senators Paul Simon and Howard M. Metzenbaum personally aired concern over amnesty talks.

President Ramos stressed he cannot influence the National Unification Commission [NUC] decision regarding the issue. Ramos mentioned that even the families of soldiers who became victims of leftist violence have already expressed the same sentiments. Even if no decision has yet been made, Ramos assured the two American senators that the NUC has been continuously studying the U.S. Embassy request.

In their meeting with Ramos, Simon and Metzenbaum assured there will be no drastic change in the foreign policy and livelihood aid program of America for the Philippines under the incoming Clinton administration.

Presidential spokesperson Anabelle Abaya said the senators also assured the Philippines will continue its favored status because it is one of the democratic countries which has had a long relationship with the U.S.

Regarding the Mutual Defense Treaty, Abaya said President Ramos assured the U.S. legislators any treaty modifications required will be enforced with the aim of strengthening the existing relations between the Philippines and America.

NUC To Give Safe Passes to Rightists for Talks

HK2211050192 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] The National Unification Commission [NUC] is scheduled to give safe conduct passes to members of the Revolutionary Nationalist Alliance [RAM] secretariat who will take part in the peace talks. Those who will be granted passes are Brigadier General Edgardo Abenina, Navy Captain Proceso Maligalig, Colonel Alexander Noble, Lieutenant Colonels Marcelino Malajacan, Melchor Acosta, and Abraham Purugganan.

Safe conduct passes will be issued in order to insure the security of the RAM members.

NUC Chairperson Haydee Yorac said the meeting with Brigadier General Jose Maria Zumel and his group will begin as soon as possible.

National Democratic Front Proposes Prisoner Swap

HK2311042592 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 23 Nov 92 pp 1, 11

[Text] The National Democratic Front [NDF] is proposing that the government set free over 600 political prisoners in exchange for soldiers held captive by New People's Army [NPA] guerillas. In a telephone interview from the Netherlands, NDF Vice Chairman Luis Jalandoni also told the INQUIRER that the communist leadership was willing to discuss with the government the possibility of a bilateral cessation of hostilities during the Christmas season.

President Ramos has approved a five-day ceasefire on Christmas and New Year. The NDF will make its own formal announcement on the issue soon, Jalandoni said. He said a "mutual release of prisoners" could further enhance the climate for peace negotiations aimed at ending the 23-year communist insurgency.

The President has released several prominent communist leaders, including NPA chieftain Romulo Kintanar and NDF spokesman Satur Ocampo, as a "confidence-building measure" to pave the way for the formal peace talks. But human rights groups continue to press for the release of over 600 more political detainees.

Jalandoni said the government has estimated that at least 30 soldiers were being held captive by communist guerillas. "The NDF is willing to discuss the possibility of mutual release of captives that would enhance the peace process," Jalandoni said. A "mutually agreed" ceasefire would facilitate the "prisoners' swap," he said.

Jalandoni said his proposal had been done in 1990 when the NDF and the government exchanged prisoners in Negros. He welcomed the President's decision to declare a five-day suspension of offensive military operations, which will be observed from 12:01 a.m. of Dec. 24 to midnight of Dec. 25 and from 12:01 a.m. of Dec. 31 to midnight of Jan. 2, 1993.

Jalandoni said communist guerillas would "most probably" match the five-day truce and could even consider a longer one. But he said it would be better if the two sides agreed on the truce through negotiations. "We favor a bilateral cessation of hostilities on humanitarian grounds for a limited duration," Jalandoni said. "Mas mabuti na [It is better] based on negotiations, kahit maiksi ang cessation basta pinagkasunduan ng dalawang panig [even if the cessation is short as long as there is an agreement between the two parties]." The ceasefire and exchange of prisoners can be discussed when the government agrees to send its emissary to the NDF in the Netherlands for another meeting, he added.

The Department of Justice has been tasked to review the cases of detained communist rebels to determine if they could be released as part of the government's peace efforts. Human rights groups charged that the government freed suspected communist leaders not in line with its reconciliation program but because the courts have ordered their release. But government officials said other prisoners could not be released because they were facing common criminal cases.

Lawyer Jose Virgilio Bautista, legal counsel of the Task Force Detainees, has called for the prompt release of at least 166 prisoners who were charged with political offenses. He said the rest of the 665 detainees were convicted of common crimes, although they should have been charged with rebellion.

Mr. Ramos, soon after assuming the presidency, offered amnesty to communist, rightist and Muslim rebels as part of his program to attain political stability. Last August, he sent emissaries to hold exploratory talks with NDF officials in the Hague. As a result, the two sides agreed to hold formal peace negotiations. No date and venue have been set for the talks, however. The NDF wants the talks to be held abroad with representatives from an independent, international body acting as mediator, but the government insists the insurgency is a local problem that should be discussed in the country without any outside interference. The National Unification Commission, which sets the government policies on peace talks with rebel groups, has also revised the agenda for the negotiations. As a result, the NDF now wants another round of exploratory talks to finalize the agenda.

Ramos, Military React to Proposal

HK2311110892 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 23 Nov 92

[Text] President Fidel V. Ramos has left the National Unification Commission to decide on the National Democratic Front [NDF] request to free all political prisoners in the country in exchange for the release of imprisoned soldiers and police. Ramos said the issue regarding who the political prisoners are still has to be clarified. Ramos added that there are only about 20 soldiers imprisoned by the New People's Army [NPA], compared to several dozen political prisoners. Here is part of the president's statement:

[Begin Ramos recording in English, in progress] ...the estimated 20 soldiers versus some several dozen as well as those in detention. If you look at the quality, I think it can be safely said the government has already released some very high quality personalities on the side of the Communist Party of the Philippines-NPA. [end recording]

Meanwhile, the military has said it is not in favor of the proposed prisoner swap after some Department of National Defense officials warned the swap will just result in the kidnaping of more political leaders and the military.

Defense Secretary Renato de Villa said the prisoner swap is just a ploy to deceive the government in order to give the communist rebels belligerency status by calling the military prisoners prisoners of war.

Colonel Rufo de Veyra, Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] spokesman, said the prisoner swap might worsen the insurgency problem since the rebels might resort to kidnaping more military officers and civilians to use as bargaining chips in the coming peace talks.

De Villa added that the review of the cases of an estimated 600 sentenced rebels is not yet finished, saying the AFP is not yet sure how many political prisoners the NDF wishes to free. He added the granting of temporary freedom to communist rebel leaders Romulo Kintanar and Satur Ocampo is a confidence-building measure and not part of a prisoner exchange.

De Veyra stressed the government soldiers should already be released without conditions.

Army Sergeant, 22 Soldiers Defect to Left

HK2311050092 Quezon City MALAYA in English 23 Nov 92 p 1

[Text] Mawab, Davao del Norte—An Army sergeant and 22 militiamen under his command have defected to the New People's Army [NPA] here, the Media Mindanao News Service said Sunday.

Sgt. Antonio Tolentino of the 25th Infantry Battalion said he fled his unit after being informed by a fellow officer of a liquidation plot against him.

Tolentino said he is a member of the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabansa [Revolutionary Nationalist Alliance].

He said members of the 12th CAFGU [Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit] unit under his command joined him in sympathy. "I did not advise them to do any drastic action," he said.

Communist rebels said it was the first time government forces joined them. A rebel officer said Tolentino and his group will still have to undergo "social investigation" before they are integrated into regular guerilla units.

Tolentino, a native of Bataan, said he received eight merit medals in his 18 years of service and was named most outstanding soldier in 1987 in ceremonies attended by Gen. Rodolfo Biazon in Davao City. Biazon is now a senator.

Tolentino said he was relieved by his superior, Col. Juanito Cabayan, for the killing of Cesar Paclibar, a militiaman.

The military launched pursuit operations against Tolentino's group after they left the camp, bombing areas where they were suspected of hiding. The officer and his men were able to link up with an NPA unit on Nov. 10.

"Ang sinabi namin (sa NPA), puminta kami ditc hindi para makipaglaban kundi humingi ng tufong [We told (the NPA) we went here not to fight but to ask for help]," the officer said. They were given food, clothing and medicines by the rebels.

Muslim Front Seeks Islamic Conference Membership

HK2311052992 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 23 Nov 92 p 14

[Report by Jerry Esplanada]

[Text] The secessionist Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF] is in a dilemma.

Reports reaching the foreign office said the rebel group was bent on renewing its bid for membership in the Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC] which will hold its 21st ministerial meeting early next year in Khartoum.

At the same time, the MNLF is "open" to formal peace talks with the Philippine government "on the basis of the 1976 Tripoli Agreement," the reports also said.

Reports from the Philippine mission in Saudi Arabia said the MNLF has not given up its hopes of becoming the 47th member of the powerful Muslim bloc.

The report said the separatist group is "relying on endorsements from (influential OIC members-states like) Saudi Arabia and Libya."

The OIC has thrice rejected the MNLF's bid to become a full member of the Muslim organization, where it has an observer status.

The DFA [Department of Foreign Affairs] is confident the MNLF's membership application will be denied again since the OIC lacks "governing rules on the admission of non-state members."

The Jeddah-based MNLF chairman Nur Misuari, who shuttles between Saudi Arabia and Libya, was said to be seriously considering pursuing the separatist group's OIC bid.

In a meeting earlier with Rep. Eduardo Ermita (Lakas [strength], Batangas) in Tripoli, Misuari said he favored new peace talks but in a "neutral venue," under the auspices of the OIC and within the framework of the Tripoli pact.

But the MNLF failed to say whether neutral meant another country as another rebel group, the National Democratic Front (NDF), has demanded.

The MNLF, in negotiations with previous administrations, had insisted on working within the framework of the Tripoli agreement calling for autonomy in 13 Mindanao provinces, among other things.

A Moro homeland envisioned by the MNLF, however, has been considered repudiated in 1989 when only four of the 13 provinces voted to be part of the Autonomous Region for Mulsim Mindanao (ARMM).

Ramos Outlines Economic Strategy

HK2011143592 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0601 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Speech by President Fidel V. Ramos at the closing ceremonies of the 18th Philippine Business Conference at the Shangri-La Plaza Edsa Hotel in Mandaluyong, Metro Manila—live, in English]

[Excerpts] Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen, Mr. President of the PCCI [Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry], Joe T. Pardo; the conference Chairman (?Sim Beyson); the cochairmen Tonyboy Cojuangco and Archit Bartolome; our colleague in the Cabinet, Roy Navarro; the distinguished members of the House of Representatives; your excellencies of the Diplomatic Corps; Dr. Victor Lim; our visitors from abroad; my co-workers in the government; participants in this 18th Philippine Business Conference; ladies and gentlemen, my dear countrymen and peers.

For the first time in just a little over a year, I am privileged to address this annual business conference of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry. As you will recall, last year, I was one of the many curtain-raisers on stage, where we had a presentation by the various presidential candidates where [passage indistinct]. And you asked me during that encounter what my chances were. My answer was very forthright. I said: Better than the others. But I suppose, because I am here today as your president and guest speaker all by myself, that you listened to my presentation and you believed in some way in Eddie Ramos the candidate, as well as his platform, which was based on the empowerment of the people, especially the economic empowerment of the people, symbolized by our sign of confidence, the thumbs up sign: We can do it, Filipinos. [previous five words in Tagalog] We can do it, and let's do it. [applause]

And, as a Filipino, I am very happy to note that the recently elected president of another country has also mentioned his belief in the program of people empowerment, and has also adopted the sign of the thumbs up: We can do it. I suppose you know what country I am referring to.

A year ago also, my dear friends, I came here promising many things to you, to our people and to our country, and today I am under challenge by you, by the media, by the masses of our people for me to redeem those promises. And I will say now before this conference: The business of this country is going forward, and national prospects have never been better than they are today. [applause]

That is why, when my favorite secretary of trade and industry said that maybe we should put a question mark after your theme, which is "Ready for Takeoff," I said that, instead of using the question mark or one explanation point—which is what Titoy Pardo uses—let us put three exclamation points after the word takeoff. [applause] I say this because I play a lot of chess and in chess [word indistinct], when you put a question mark after a move, that means it's a mistake. If you put an exclamation point, that means that it was a damn good move. If you put a question mark with an exclamation point, it could be a mistake—but it could be also a decisive move. But, if you put two or three exclamation points, that means that it was a winning move, so that let's use it here in the 18th PBC.

My dear friends, this confident assessment of our situation is perhaps different from the perception of others. Looking at the same phenomenon, some guess an acute case of depression, while others [passage indistinct] and move to indict democracy in this country, while others [words indistinct] from it. Viewpoints differ, even collide, because they are looking at the phenomenon of our national decline and poor economic situation compared to our neighbors, who are modernizing at the world's fastest rates. At the same time, changes are taking place in the world as bewildering statements go, and we are worried that we might be left behind even further. [sentence as heard]

We all realize that we must think about our economic challenges and about international politics in a different way. To cope with the twin challenges, we need to look outward, not inward as we have been doing these past 42 years. We need new intellectual and behavioral attitudes to replace our narrow notion of the world and our place in it. [passage omitted]

Dear friends, we have mentioned development strategy, which must rest on the empowerment of our people. People empowerment. The empowerment of the business sector by freeing it from unnecessary regulations that only deter it from doing its best under conditions not of cartels or monopolies but of real and equal competition. The empowerment of our citizenry so that their talent and energy can be made to bear on their well-being in the uplift of the whole society. Empowerment of our local communities so that they can become net contributors to national growth.

This administration has started the process of bringing the economy from too many regulations so that it can generate productive jobs and living wages for our working people. Already, as you well know, we have removed all controls on foreign exchange transactions. We are making progressively policies that would reduce tariff and quantitative restrictions on most of our imports. And we are chipping away at the high interest rates, from about 24 percent a year ago to about 15 percent a month ago. And we hope it's going down. Hospitality to foreign investments and tourism and openness to competition are integral to this program, because we are acutely aware that we cannot on our own generate the capital and the technological skills we need to enable our economy to gather strength. As to foreign debts, the financing package we signed in July has reduced our debt service obligation, a percentage of exports from as high of 33 percent to about 19 percent after that agreement was entered into.

And, in the countryside, from region to region, our local governments have started the vital cause of making their communities more hospitable and attractive to investments. This very moment, just like you, our Cabinet—except, of course for Roy Navarro, who has been shuttling back and forth—and our Regional Development Council, which consists of governors, city mayors, and leaders of the private sector, are themselves working and studying in a workshop precisely to find out if we can make a bottom-up kind of approach, starting with our communities, a developmental strategy we can embark upon. [passage omitted]

Nevertheless, we are mindful of how (?situations) have hurt our exporters, and so we have adopted a total approach to the problem. At the macro level, we have implemented measures to maintain exchange rate at a level that would encourage exports, bring down interest rates, liberalize the investment climate, and maintain a slow to moderate inflation rate. This had been reported upon by your resource speaker during the last few days of the Cabinet. I will ask that this administration must propose priority bills to convert Central Bank into a Central Monetary Authority and to liberalize the banking industry, for us to provide for more effective competition.

At the micro level, measures are continuously being taken to reduce trade restrictions, including those in [words indistinct]. On trade and export promotion, our commitment to a liberalized (?strategy) is enhanced by our active commitment and participation in AFTA [ASEAN Free Trade Area], the main mechanism of which is the common effective preferential tariff, or CEPT, which in effect will lead to the gradual reduction in intra-regional tariffs on all manufactured products within five years.

To prepare our industries for the Philippines' participation in the AFTA, I have previously directed the secretary of trade and industry to submit a draft executive order to institutionalize immediately an AFTA commission, to serve as a forum for consultation on the policies regarding the said agreement. As you know, a multisectoral after-study commission was (?earlier dissolved) after it had submitted its report to President (?Aquino). Since the government now sees the need for a more permanent AFTA advisory commission to continue evaluating the impact of AFTA on our economy for the next 15 years, I am pleased to announce before you that I have approved the proposed the executive order, proposed by Secretary Navarro, reconstituting his AFTA commission and providing funds for it from the president's contingent fund. [applause]

In sum, this commission shall have the following powers and functions. First, prepare studies identifying the issues and implications of AFTA and ASEAN economic cooperation on the Philippine economy, in its industrial, agricultural, financial and service sectors, including labor and defense; and propose [word indistinct] work programs, including legislation, where needed, by the sector's initiative, and technological innovations to enhance our competitive advantages in the regional market. [sentence as heard]

Second, recommend directions, policies and guidelines for the government in its continuing discussions and negotiations with the ASEAN governments and the dialogue partners in all areas of economic cooperation. Also, to enhance collaboration and give consensus among the various sectors, such as business and industry, agriculture and the service sectors, the science and technology sectors, and labor and nongovernment organizations, [word indistinct] to create such subcommittees and task forces as may be necessary to accomplish all of these.

I can tell you in advance that this AFTA Advisory Committee shall have for its joint chairmen Secretary Navarro and Mr. Jose Pardo, your president of the PCCI [Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry] [applause], plus 14 other prominent representatives of the private sector, all of whom are indeed [words indistinct].

We cannot repeat this point often enough: Exports are the key to long-term sustained growth. There is no other way to run. But I am confident that the outward-looking policies we are now adopting will significantly reduce distortions in relative prices, generate employment and improve the distribution of (?wealth). We expect the liberalized trade and investment environment will also improve the employment situation in our country. Clearly, we cannot be satisfied with the 1.1 percent growth in productivity for the six-year period from 1985 to 1991. A significant increase in productivity levels will have to depend on our ability to retrain the workforce and produce the new human capital needed by the Philippine [word indistinct].

Steps are now being taken to correct the extreme dysfunction in the labor sector. The dismal state of technical and vocational education and existing poor retraining schemes, which are all becoming a burden in our drive to toward sustained growth. Along these lines, I have asked Congress to immediately enact pending legislations aimed at alleviating the worsening education and workplace crisis. This includes the (?maximization of) the so-called rural training system in the Philippines, where government and the private sector must join hands to ensure highly skilled and efficient workers. Once enacted, these measures will further strengthen our comparative advantage within ASEAN in terms of a better-educated and more efficient labor force.

Finally, I must underscore, my dear friends, the centrality of people in our development program. We cannot talk of the struggle for development merely from the point of view of businessmen and entrepreneurs, for this must be the struggle of all of our people to obtain development. This struggle must be fought in the cities and the countrysides, in our factories and in our farms, in our boardrooms and [word indistinct]. We cannot claim victory until we succeed in stopping the massive poverty that has taken so many millions [of Filipinos].

President Clinton campaigned on the theme of people empowerment, and he succeeded in winning the elections. I think the world is now through with single-town economics. [Words indistinct] our poor farther and farther behind the rest of the international community. Emphasis is now equally on the delivery of basic social services, self-skilled training, and extension services and the promotion of cooperatives. Efforts of promoting countryside development as a major strategy in this administration's war against poverty. [sentence as heard] And we have embarked on a mission to improve credit access in rural areas, [word indistinct], and other support services, provision of rural market infrastructure and strengthening of our cooperatives. Tax innovation: I am asking congressmen and senators to give some of their countryside development fund to be invested in the Land Bank of the Philippines, so that even modest this amount [words indistinct] is among the programs we are now pursuing to provide easy access to credit to our (?farmers). [sentence as heard]

The point is that, with this positive stimulation of behalf the poor, we thereby raise them to a level where they can decisively help the machine, and the mechanism is set motion. Their greater productivity would spell the productivity of the entire economy. Certainly what we have done in nearly five months is still not enough. But since we are now [words indistinct], and we will not relent until we fully transform the climate of economic progress in our country.

By [word indistinct] an inclination, I am a realist. I do not believe too much in any situation, no matter how promising. I believe in measurable targets and measurable achievements. The bottom line for me is the accountant's statement. Nonetheless, I cannot help but feel (?elated) by [words indistinct] borne home to me by my visits across our country, from my meetings with delegates and businessmen from here and abroad, who have come to visit and to see for themselves what is happening in our country.

In my meetings with local leaders and communities, I can testify to their strength and confidence, their eagerness and their readiness to the challenge of economic transformation in our country. They are weary of politics, especially that kind which we call traditional patronage politics. They want to get things done. They understand that, for development to happen, government cannot be [word indistinct]. Today, the people themselves must take [word indistinct]. These, more than anything else, more than even the interest of investors in our country, signify to me that the country can reverse its record decline and change. That our reforms are taking place and that we are indeed ready for takeoff.

Our task then, as leaders and entrepreneurs, is to turn this promise for the lasting benefit of our people and out country. To make this final decade of the 20th century into a time of growth and dynamism in our time. This task can be seen where we can be transformed by our labors. In the executive, you can be assured that I will spare no effort to do what has to be done, for this task requires the energetic collaboration of Congress, and I will urge our legislators to enact laws that would release the energies of the nation. And where, finally, this task must be fulfilled by the enterprise of the private sector, I urge you in this community to take up its [word indistinct] and dedicate to your role as the engines of development in our nation.

Let us all join together in the crusade to obtain transformation. Let it not be said that, in this era of promise, we did not sound the clarion and our people did not hear the cause. By all means, let us take off. Thank you and long life to us all. [preceding five words in Tagalog] [applause]

Ramos To Approve Energy Bill, Names Energy Chief

HK2211041592 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] President Fidel V. Ramos is scheduled to sign the Energy Bill within the first week of December. The bicameral conference report will be signed this coming Tuesday [24 November] before submission to Malacanang. The compromise includes the description of the scope of the Energy Department secretary's powers as well as extension of the deregulation period from one to up to four years.

Ramos has designated Energy Coordinating Council Chairman Delfin Lazaro as energy secretary.

Abra Officials Form Peace Talks Panel

HK2311055692 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 23 Nov 92 p 12

[Text] Officials of Abra have formed a peace panel which will conduct exploratory talks with the New People's Army (NPA) rebels aimed at ending the communist insurgency in the province.

Abra Gov. Vicsyd Valera, Philippine National Police (PNP) provincial director Senior Superintendent Manuel Raval, and Army 701st Brigade commander Col. Franklin Acosta head of the panel.

Raval urged NPA rebels to avail themselves of the amnesty program of the government and join their former comrades and sympathizers who are now leading peaceful lives.

Abra PNP Chief Inspector Benjamin Bambieo and operations officer Inspector Robert Mesa said that in the last several months alone, 19 regular NPA members and an almost equal number of their supporters have given up.

Raval said the rebel returnees complained of lack of food and other hardships in their life in hiding.

He said it has been almost a year since NPA rebels attacked or even harassed police and military units in the province.

Recently reported encounters were all government initiated, Raval noted.

The last time a considerable number of NPA rebels were seen, about 20, was in September in sitio Dapilis, Bolinay town.

But the rebels were only on a foraging mission and fled hurriedly after a brief firefight with responding police units, Raval said.

The rebels even left behind subversive documents and pictures of some of them, he said.

Thailand

Chuan, Foreign Minister Send Condolences to Laos

BK2311021592 Bangkok THE NATION in English 23 Nov 92 p A2

[By Kunachada Chaiphiphat]

[Text] Thailand has sent letters of condolence to the Laotian government following the death of President Kaysone Phomvihan. Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri said yesterday.

Prasong, who was in Chanthaburi province, said he telephoned Prime Minister Chuan Likphai to inform him about Kaysone's death from an undisclosed illness on Saturday.

The premier and the Foreign Minister have sent letters of condolence to the Laotian government to express their sympathies. The late president was chief of the Laotian Communist Party for about 20 years before becoming premier in 1975. The National Assembly elected him president last year.

Prasong said he did not expect drastic changes in Vientiane's relationship with Bangkok or in Laotian political affairs generally in the wake of the Kaysone's death.

Effect of Kaysone's Death on Laos, Ties Viewed

BK2311022992 Bangkok THE NATION in English 23 Nov 92 p A6

[By Kawi Chongkitthawon]

[Text] Three things that Laotian President Kaysone Phomvihan was very fond of: a pair of dark glasses, cream-coloured silky business suits and books for reading.

The first two items had to do with his personal tastes, but reading books, especially on Japan's post-war economic resurgence, was his main passion as well as a source of inspiration in preparing for the future of his landlocked country, which is one of the world's poorest.

It was these books on Japan's economic development that influenced Kaysone's thinking and inspired him to initiate radical economic reforms known as "chintanakanmai" (a new vision), in the early 1980s—long before other Indochinese leaders began initiating reform and years before the collapse of communism in Europe.

Kaysone, who died of some undisclosed illness on Saturday at the age of 71, was instrumental in bringing to Laos the Japanese financial and technical assistance to support its transformation into a market economy and in juggling "corrected" ties with its three odd neighbours—Vietnam, China and Thailand —while at the same time maintaining cordial friendships with Western countries.

With his charisma, pragmatism and zeal Kaysone pushed for reforms and won over conservatives in the government and the ruling party who were less than happy with the speed of economic transformation; they were afraid that the reforms would erode their political grip. For them, the political turmoil in the former Eastern European bloc and China's Tiananmen massacre were grim reminders of dire consequences from reforms that went out of control.

To the Laotian people at large, Lao modernization is a symbol of Japan's generous assistance. This year, Tokyo will provide US$20 million in assistance. Japan has for the past several years been the largest aid donor in Laos surpassing major donors like Australia and Sweden.

A Thai diplomat in Vientiane said that while Laos would continue to welcome Japanese aid, other conservatives would like to contain Japan's growing economic dominance. "They want a more balanced approach to development aid, instead of completely relying on Japan," the diplomat noted.

After Kaysone's first visit to Tokyo at the end of 1989, Japan has steadily increased its financial and technical assistance and investment to improve Laos' economic infrastructure and promote modernization. In the capital, Vientiane, signs of Japanese influence are everywhere, ranging from newly-painted Japanese-made buses to Japanese-funded training centres and public utilities.

Without Kaysone's personal intervention and preferences, other Laotian leaders would prefer to diversify outside assistance, with eyes especially for the United States and Europe. Laos has been very co-operative in locating the remains of Americans missing in action and providing information concerning PoWs, as well as in the area of suppressing drug trafficking.

Laos has managed to avoid economic sanctions from the West while it has sought to improve the human rights. Among the international community there is an acceptance that stability and further economic progress in Laos is crucial to regional peace and security and that the Lao leadership is making an effort to avoid violating human rights.

As far as Lao diplomacy is concerned, one can expect a further parting of the Lao-Vietnamese friendship due to the absence of old ties and shared revolutionary experiences that was epitomized by Kaysone's involvement with the Indochinese communist movement since its inception.

By all accounts, Kaysone was careful enough not to upset the delicate Lao-Vietnamese ties throughout the 1980s while he carried out economic reforms and sought rapprochement with China and Thailand, both were then considered Hanoi's adversaries because of the Vietnamese occupation of Cambodia.

Without Kaysone, Lao foreign policy will continue to look towards the West while attempting to maintain existing ties with Vietnam. Improved ties with China and Thailand will continue to strengthen as long-standing political and border disputes are gradually addressed.

After the communist victory in Laos in December 1975, the Lao authorities' main concern has been the threat of the anti-Vientiane elements based in Thailand. Now, that concern has somewhat subsided. The Thai government has taken extraordinary steps to arrest rightist Laotians in Thailand since June. Some of those arrested and deported were Laotians carrying American passports.

Thai-Lao relations have began to move into a new plane of co-operation in anticipation of the completion of Thai-Lao friendship bridge in two years. The bridge, whose construction is being funded by Australia, links Laos through land routes to the rest of mainland Southeast Asia.

Apart from economic reforms and diplomacy, Kaysone's departure will not have any affect on the snail-paced political reforms.

Moderates and conservatives inside the government and the party see eye-to-eye on going slow on this issue. They still cannot tolerate a multi-party system, or any form of political pluralism as practised in the West. Because of the country's unique social condition and history, they prefer economic openness without corresponding political liberalzation.

With about half of its 5 million population still illiterate and living in mountainous areas, any organized dissent, if any, is seldom heard, or for that matter heeded. But within the confines of intellectuals, there is discontent and yearning for more freedom of expression. Writers and artists, for example, do not want government interference with their work and aspirations.

Newspapers, owned and censored by the government, are freer than before. Revelation of corruption by people in high places is not uncommon. Lao journalists in the past have called for the removal of corrupt local authorities and for changes in ineffectual agricultural policies. But criticisms of the party and its leaders are still taboo.

In response to domestic and international pressure for more political liberalization, the upcoming national election, scheduled on December 20, will for the first include independent candidates without party affiliation.

A total of 185 candidates of the party and independents have registered to contest the 80 seats in the national assembly.

All told, post-Kaysone Laos will continue with its ongoing economic reforms, which are irreversible—albeit some period of adjustment will be necessary as the nation redefines relations with Vietnam and diversifies its foreign assistance.

Khmer Rouge Strength, Election Aftermath Viewed

BK2111043292 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 21 Nov 92 p 4

[Text] A few weeks ago, during a conversation in Phnom Penh, Mr Hun Sen told us that he expected the Khmer Rouge to attack at least in four provinces by the beginning of the dry season. The main targets, he said, could be Battambang, Preah Vihear, Siem Reap and Kompong Thom.

"We have serious information to sustain our conviction that the Khmer Rouge are piling up weapons and bringing heavy artillery and tanks inside the country," said Hun Sen. The Khmer Rouge, he added, were making enough money on their own to sustain their war efforts without Chinese assistance.

But another senior source from the People's Party of Cambodia (PPC) said a few days ago that he did not believe in the "military solution."

"The Khmer Rouge do not have the military capacity to take over the country, and they are perfectly aware of their limitations," the source said.

Hun Sen himself estimated the strength of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea (NADK) at no more than 12,000 combatants. Some sources claim the figure is even lower, while other diplomats in Phnom Penh seem convinced that the NADK has close to 40,000 soldiers.

This wide discrepancy emphasises at least one important fact: We still know very little about the true strength of the Khmer Rouge.

A few years ago I talked either directly or through Khmer friends to several Khmer Rouge military defectors. The figure they gave for the various units never came to more than 15,000 men and women.

While there have never been mass defections from the rank and file of the NADK, it is clear that in some areas of Cambodia many of the young soldiers are almost as tired of the war as their brothers from the three other factions.

While the Khmer Rouge did capture some heavy guns and tanks in their late 1989 offensive, it is doubtful that they could sustain any large-scale battle. This does not mean, however, that they do not have the capacity to create serious security problems in many provinces. As it has so often been noted, the strength of the Khmer Rouge is partly based on the weakness of the other factions.

If our source did not believe in a large-scale military offensive, he was nonetheless convinced that the Khmer Rouge were not about to join the peace process either.

The Khmer Rouge have long-term political objectives, and they are likely to stick to their plans, he said.

During a debriefing a few years ago an NADK commander said that he and his men had often been told during political classes that after the ceasefire there would probably be elections and that the Khmer Rouge's chances of winning the vote were very slim.

"We expect Prince Sihanouk to win," he said. And there could be a battle for power among the various factions. There may be more corruption as more money will be available from trade and international assistance. The Khmer Rouge, according to the defector, should then take advantage of the suffering of the population, of the poverty of the peasants to stir resentment against Sihanouk and those in power. The Khmer Rouge could come back to power thanks to a popular rebellion.

The NADK soldiers were also told that those who would join Sihanouk or Son Sann would have no real future in Cambodia. The two leaders incline toward foreigners since they speak foreign languages, while the Khmer Rouge's rank and file will be accused of lacking proper instruction and brushed aside, the soldiers were told.

The conclusion was crystal clear: The Cambodian land and race will not be safely protected without the Party of Democratic Kampuchea (PDK).

In a speech he gave to a group of "revolutionary" women in 1988, Pol Pot strongly attacked the "capitalists". The big ones, he explained, "are the money masters. They control the entire political administration from top to bottom in every sphere."

Given such a system, what will happen to Cambodia? There will be a few capitalist families in cities and towns and "everybody will be subordinated to these few big capitalist families," said Pol Pot. In other words, there will be "impoverishment of labour" in towns while in the countryside "there will be general poverty."

As in the Sixties and Seventies Pol Pot's main reason for his determined attacks against the "capitalists" is that at the end they endanger the strength of the nation and make it vulnerable to foreign invaders.

"If a bourgeois regime is bringing about poverty in the cities and towns and throughout the countryside, the problem that it poses is who will be able to defend the nation and country," he said. "What would happen in terms of the way of life of our rank and file in a regime of bourgeois political and economic monopoly?... In this case the hundreds of thousands of persons in our rank and file would be atomised economically and in terms of their way of life... they would inevitably be obliterated by the bourgeois society..."

Since Pol Pot and his friends are convinced that only the Khmer rank and file, those with no other places to go, are the only people who will defend the integrity of the Cambodian nation, nothing would be worst than the obliteration of the Khmer Rouge rank and file.

The countryside will be "plunged into poverty" by a bourgeois regime. And the countryside "comprises the most important strength for national defence. So who else will be there to defend the nation? There won't be anybody," insisted Pol Pot. Indeed, he added, the "DK rank and file, who in fact constitute the hard core of the nation and the people, will be completely dispersed and destroyed."

For Pol Pot, the consequences are clear: "No one will act as a nucleus for national and popular resistance to the Yuon (a derogatory term used constantly by the KR [Khmer Rouge] to identify the Vietnamese) enemy's snap and gulp vis-a-vis Kampuchea, and Kampuchea would thus become a second Kampuchea Krom."

If such is indeed the deep belief of Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge leadership, why would the PDK accept demobilisation, cantonment (where their men would be exposed to "negative" influence), and serious supervision by the UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] in the zones under their control?

The Khmer Rouge leadership may decide that it is worth resisting any foreign pressure, build a kind of model zone along the Thai border and in areas in Siem Reap and Kompong Thom and prepare for tomorrow.

Elections in Pol Pot's view, are of very little interest. But should they take place, even in the absence of the PDK, it is not difficult to imagine that at least a few candidates running under the banner of one or two parties will have close connections with the Khmer Rouge.

Paper Views Effects of UN Sanctions on Traders

BK2211022092 Bangkok THE NATION in English 22 Nov 92 p A2

[Text] Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri yesterday reaffirmed that the government has no policy to stop Thai businessmen from trading with the Khmer Rouge once the United Nations' economic sanctions against the group are imposed.

Though the government did not want the traders to take the risk, the final decision to do so rests with them, said Prasong.

The minister, however, warned of the risk of uncertainty in trading with the Khmer Rouge prior to the Cambodian general election with the Marxist group's participation still in doubt.

"We don't want them to take risks that are beyond the government's control," he said.

The Thai government could not help them if a newly elected Cambodian government considers their trading partners illegal and bans all dealings with them since Thailand will have to recognize an elected Phnom Penh administration.

Prasong yesterday chaired a meeting in Chanthaburi of governors of seven provinces bordering Cambodia as well as border authorities, including officials from the National Security Council, the Interior Ministry and the army.

He was later in the day briefed on the border situation along Chanthaburi and Trat provinces by deputy commander of the Chanthaburi-Trat Task Force Rear Admiral Trirat Chamanan.

The provincial governors proposed during the meeting that more temporary crossing points at the Thai-Cambodian border be opened, to hasten the transportation of machinery and equipment used in logging as well as logs piled up inside Cambodia out of the country, before a ban on Cambodian log exports declared by the Supreme National Council takes effect by Dec 31.

They also proposed that Thai logging companies be allowed a grace period after the ban takes effect to move the logs out of Cambodia.

The proposals are among the measures discussed at the meeting to minimize the possible economic damage from the looming UN economic pressure on Khmer Rouge as well as the SNC ban on timber exports.

Chanthaburi Governor Wimol Puangthong briefed the minister on the gems and timber trade with Khmer Rouge which he said would be badly affected if the UN carries out immediate trade sanctions against the Khmer Rouge.

Informed sources said Trat Governor Amom Anantachai proposed increasing the gems mining areas to include restricted strategic zones under the Chanthaburi-Trat task force's control in Trat's Bo Rai district, which have now become less profitable because of several years of over-exploitation.

According to the sources, the governor proposed this measure to help compensate workers who will have to return home if the ban on gems trading with Khmer Rouge is implemented.

Prasong told a press conference afterwards that various aspects to cope with the impact of a UN trade blockade on the Khmer Rouge were discussed, including the possibility of allowing loggers to fulfill their contracts as soon as possible as well as the means to transport logs out fast and the relocation of costly machinery and equipment used in the gems and logging industries.

Prasong said he assured the border authorities that the government will try its best to minimize the effects on Thai traders from whatever measures the UN will implement.

The minister said Thai permanent representative to the UN Nit Pibulsongkram on Friday night (New York time) called on UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali to convey Thailand's concern over punitive measures the United Nations will apply to the Khmer Rouge, which will likely affect Thailand more than any other party concerned.

Ambassador Defends Policies on Burma, Khmer Rouge

BK2211033392 Bangkok THE SUNDAY POST in English 22 Nov 92 p 4

[Text] A Thai diplomat yesterday defended the Government's policy on Burma, saying international sanctions against that country are merely political pressure unlikely to have grave effects on Thailand.

"Western countries separate economic interests from political issues. No matter how they disagree with the military junta in Burma, their business in that country goes on as usual." The Ambassador to Rangoon Wirasak Futrakun said.

"The US tops foreign investment in Burma, followed closely by Japan, the Netherlands, France and other European countries."

Sanctions against the military junta in Burma are not as serious as those against the Khmer Rouge because the EC and the US have enormous benefit from Burma, he said.

The UN Security Council is preparing to impose economic sanctions against the Khmer Rouge to force the Cambodian faction to rejoin the peace plan for their country, while western countries merely called for Rangoon to retun power to its people under a democratic system, he said.

"If the EC wants to force Thailand to impose economic sanctions, it should first consider its own position.

"We are realising the gradual change of Burma from a socialist to a market system."

Additionally, Rangoon is in the process of promulgating a constitution to return power to its people and Thailand should have a role in helping its neighbour improve itself on the basis of mutual interests, he said.

"We don't intervene in the internal matters of other countries. It should also be noted that trade and investment there by Thai businessmen are not as high as those of other countries.

"Burma is not being protested against by all the world community. It has reentered the Non-Aligned Movement which groups many countries. Measures by the EC will not be accepted by this movement because it will consider that big nations are bullying a smaller one."

Praphakon Smiti, director of the Interior's Foreign Affairs Division, said it is necessary for the UN and world community to come to terms with Thailand's stance on the Khmer Rouge.

"We don't have a role in the conflict and if we are to impose sanctions as being urged by many countries, it is likely that we will encounter many problems," he said.

"Thailand has done its best to bring peace to Cambodia. Many burdens were left with us for a long time, including the refugees. It isn't all right if the United Nations adopts tough measures without considering Thailand."

Mr Praphakon said sanctions against the Khmer Rouge will have an effect, not only on Thai businessmen but also on Thai villagers living along the border.

"It is very possible that the villagers will be robbed and killed by the cornered Khmer Rouge forces and when such an incident happens, no countries can help us."

The director called for the world community to consider other practical measures against the Khmer Rouge including the end of assistance at government level.

Representative of Burmese students, non-government organisations, the United Nations High commissioner for Refugees and some western embassies have been invited to a meeting at the Interior Ministry on Tuesday for a final briefing on the Government's policy on the students.

A ministerial source said yesterday that Thailand's policy towards the fugitive students will remain unchanged despite protests from the students and some NGOs. The students will have to be interned in a camp in Pak Tho District of Ratchaburi by November 30 otherwise they will face arrest on charges of illegal immigration.

Local Official Comments on Trade With Cambodia

BK2211084192 Bangkok NAEO NA in Thai 22 Nov 92 p 8

[Text] According to Waiyarak Walairat, the Trat provincial commerce officer, after Cambodia's Supreme National Council imposed a ban on the export of timber—effective from 31 December—Thai timber operators have speeded up the removal of timber from Cambodia to beat the deadline. This has resulted in an increase in the import of timber from Cambodia.

The increase in timber imports has created a trade deficit of 196 million baht on Thailand's part. The deficit is a cause for concern because a continuation of the situation will result in a huge trade deficit with Cambodia.

A survey covering the January-September period shows that two-way border trade amounted to 432 million baht, with imports accounting for 314 million baht. The import of logs and processed wood accounts for 96.53 percent of overall imports. Thai exports to Cambodia include clothes, cars, motorcycles, and car spare parts.

Waiyarak says there are four temporary border crossing points in Bo Rai District and another in Muang District. Five Thai firms have been given permits to import timber but only two are actually operating; the other three plan to operate later.

Exports which are not subject to custom duties, including wooden goods from Koh Kong, have declined considerably. Thai exports which have increased are cement, which reached 150-300 tons, paint, and bathroom ware.

Waiyarak says: "We are concerned that an increase in the import of raw products from Cambodia, which is expected until the ban goes into effect, will exacerbate the trade deficit situation."

Foreign Minister Warns KR of 'Last Chance'

BK2311015792 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 23 Nov 92 p 7

[Text] Chanthaburi—Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri yesterday warned the Khmer Rouge [KR] that this would be their last chance to rejoin the peace process in Cambodia.

He also voiced his strong support for "patient diplomacy" as advocated by UN Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali who opposes economic sanctions on the Khmer Rouge.

"I agree that the door should be left open for the Khmer Rouge to come back to the peace process and the elections," said Mr Prasong.

He also said he hoped the Khmer Rouge, in the meantime, would capitalise on this opportunity to rejoin the other factions in order to restore peace in Cambodia.

He urged the Khmer Rouge and the Phnom Penh regime to exercise restraint to avoid fighting.

The Khmer Rouge has demanded the verification of the Vietnamese troop withdrawal by the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia and the strengthening of the Supreme National Council. Their demands were seen at a sign posted at a checkpoint Ban O'Lamchiak in Pong Namron District of Thailand and Pailin.

Foreign Minister Prasong told reporters that the report of the UN secretary-general recommending "patient diplomacy" indicated that the world community had accepted Thailand's policy towards the Khmer Rouge.

He reiterated that Thailand would follow the UN resolution as long as it did not violate Thailand's sovereignty.

He expressed hope that the UN Security Council would heed the recommendation of the UN secretary-general.

"At least, the UN secretary general has given the guideline," the Foreign Minister said.

A UN peacekeeper stationed in Pailin said he opposed trade sanctions. He added he believed that the Khmer Rouge would be able to live in their zones for years without outside help.

Mr Prasong also warned Thai traders not to make new deals with the guerrillas because of the uncertain situation in Cambodia.

The Foreign Minister and his team yesterday visited the Ban 0' Lamchiak checkpoint, the main route of gem traders between Pailin and Chanthaburi.

During the visit, Mr Prasong talked to a Khmer Rouge police officer who said that about 100 vehicles passed through the checkpoint each day.

Officer Warns of Possible Khmer Rouge 'Banditry'

BK2311020592 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 23 Nov 92 p 7

[Text] Chanthaburi—A high-ranking marine officer in charge of security along the Chanthaburi-Trat border with Cambodia has warned of widespread banditry if the border was sealed off but said any renewed fighting among the Khmer factions would not affect Thailand.

Rear-Adm [Rear-Admiral] Triratthana Chawalan, deputy commander of the Chanthaburi-Trat Defence Command, told visiting Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri that if all the checkpoints along the Thai-Cambodian border were closed, Khmer Rouge guerrillas may try to cross into the bordering provinces to rob the people.

"Villagers would live in fear again after sleeping well for a long time," he told the minister.

The rear-admiral predicted rampant smuggling of consumer goods if the United Nations decided to slap sanctions against the guerrilla group.

If the guerrillas run out of food or other basic necessities, they may turn into armed robbers and prey on Thai villagers, he added. He said the Chanthaburi-Trat Defence Command could not effectively seal off the entire 250-km border because it didn't have ufficient manpower and resources.

He also predicted a new round of fighting among the Cambodian factions during the dry season.

But he told the minister that the fighting would not affect Thais along the border because there are no Cambodian soldiers within 15-20 km of the border.

Burma Repeats Claim to Disputed Hill in Chumphon

BK2111051892 Bangkok THE NATION in English 21 Nov 92 p A2

[Text] Burmese Eastern Region Commander Maj Gen Maung Aye yesterday reiterated Burma's claim to a hill that Thailand insists is in Chumphon Province, saying his troops had recaptured it from anti-Rangoon ethnic Karen guerrillas.

He said as the Thai government had "repeatedly reassured" Burma it does not allow any Burmese insurgent groups to establish bases on Thai territory, the Burmese Army had the right to move in and occupy Hill 491, on which "terrorist insurgents" of the Karen National Union had maintained a stronghold for eight years.

Maung Aye spoke to a select group of journalists in Bangkok after attending a meeting in Chiang Mai of the Thai-Burmese Regional Border Committee earlier this week. He will return to Rangoon today after meeting with Supreme Commander ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Woranat Aphichari.

The Burmese armed forces attacked the Karens and occupied the hill in February to prevent the guerrillas from using it as a base from which to stage forays into the Irrawaddy Delta, Maung Aye said.

"The [Karen] terrorist insurgents at one time penetrated from this point into the Irrawaddy Delta. This is why the KNU [Karen National Union] insurgents want to reoccupy the hill...in order to enter the Irrawaddy Delta again," he said.

Maung Aye said it was the responsibility of the two countries' governments, not the Thai-Burmese Regional Border Committee which is chaired by military leaders, to settle the territorial dispute. The committee failed during a two-day meeting to resolve the matter.

However, Thai Third Region Army Commander Lt Gen Yingyo Chotphimai stated earlier this week the meeting had agreed to send a joint technical team to study and survey the disputed area.

Maung Aye said yesterday the team "can start the work of demarcation only after it has been approved by the governments concerned".

He said the ownership of Hill 491, or Hill 1542 according to Burmese topographical references, would be known only after both sides had cooperated to resolve the controversy.

Defense Minister: Burma Ready To Resolve Dispute

BK2111133592 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 21 Nov 92

[Text] Speaking to newsmen about whether the occupation by Burmese soldiers' of Hill 491 in Chumphon Province to suppress Karen rebels constitutes violation of Thai sovereignty, Defense Minister General Wichit Sukmak said the Thai-Burmese joint border committee meeting had discussed the matter and he felt that the dispute could be resolved amicably. He said Burmese soldiers still occupy the hill. Asked about government policy in case the Burmese continue to occupy the hill, the defense minister said at this time it could not be confirmed to which country the hill belongs. Once the ownership is ascertained, action will be taken. He said there is no problem as Thailand and Burma are ready to resolve the dispute.

Asked about the opposition bloc's plan to call a no-confidence motion against the government, the defense minister gave no comments, merely saying that relationships among the government parties remain smooth.

Burmese Military Seeks Curb on Thai Press

BK2311024392 Bangkok THE NATION in English 23 Nov 92 p A3

[Text] Burmese military officials have asked their Thai counterparts to help rein in Thailand's vigorous free press, which has been largely critical of the Rangoon junta since it came to power in a bloody coup in 1988, according to informed sources.

The Burmese officials want the Thai government to tell the local press to tone down its criticism of the junta which they said had recently made several "positive" moves by freeing a large number of political prisoners and announcing steps to restore democracy.

The source, who asked not to be named, said the informal complaints were made during the Regional Border Committee [RBC] meeting in Chiang Mai province last week. The meeting was co-chaired by Burma's eastern commander Maj Gen Muang Aye and Thailand's 3rd Army Region commander Lt Gen Yingyo Chotphimai.

However, Thai officers told the Burmese that Thailand "respects press freedom and, therefore, cannot tell the mass media what to do", the source, who attended the meeting, said.

The source did not say whether the Burmese officials mentioned any Thai newspapers in particular.

The international community has condemned the Rangoon government for violating democratic principles by cracking down on pro-democracy dissent and refusing to hand over power to opposition politicians who clearly won a general election in 1990. There have been repeated reports of human rights violations against politicians and prodemocracy leaders and their sympathizers.

Rangoon has released hundreds of political prisoners this year, but popular pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991 for her peaceful resistance to the Rangoon junta, remains under strict house arrest.

The government of Prime Minister Chuan Likphai has vowed to continue a policy of "constructive engagement" towards Burma, meaning Bangkok will not interfere with Rangoon's internal political affairs. However, the Thai media have echoed international calls for the Burmese military government to return power to the people.

Another source said yesterday that Burmese officials made similar complaints during the 6th RBC meeting held in Burma earlier this year.

The source said Thai officers at the meeting were "caught off guard" by the complaints" and called for a tea break. [quotation marks as received]

After the break, the Thai side told the Burmese that the Thai government could do nothing to control the Thai press.

Japanese Prince Akishino, Envoy Receive Threats

OW2011135592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1329 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] Bangkok, Nov. 20 KYODO—The Japanese Embassy in Thailand has received threatening letters addressed to visiting Japanese Prince Akishino and his wife Princess Kiko and to the Japanese ambassador, embassy officials said Friday.

The embassy reported the matter to the police after receiving the two letters, written in Thai and mailed in Bangkok, on Tuesday and Wednesday, the officials said.

One of the letters was addressed to the prince and princess and the other to Japanese Ambassador Hiroaki Fujii, they said.

The letters bore the name of an actual person residing in northeastern Thailand but police suspect that the person was not the one who sent them.

Prince Akishino, the younger son of Emperor Akihito, arrived in Bangkok with Princess Kiko on Friday at the invitation of the Thai Government. The royal pair are on a four-nation Asian tour. They will stay in Thailand until Tuesday [24 November].

'Controversy' Over Japanese Nuclear Ship Discussed

BK2211015692 Bangkok THE NATION in English 22 Nov 92 p A10

[Editorial: "Akatsuki Maru's nuclear cargo is too dangerous"]

[Text] The controversy surrounding the Japanese freighter Akatsuki Maru, carrying a cargo of 1.7 tonnes of plutonium, shows that there are two Japans on the world stage. One is seriously concerned over nuclear proliferation, while the other is preoccupied with bringing home plutonium by the tonnes to fuel its future fast-breeder reactors.

Japan's ambitious 20-year plan for energy independence is to double its reliance on nuclear power to meet nearly half of the nation's energy needs. With an enormous industrial plant to power and no domestic fuel sources, Japan is extremely vulnerable to the fickle global energy supply. Oil embargoes, shortages and price fluctuations of petroleum could throw Japanese industries off course.

The irony now is that Japan which adopted strong pacifist and antinuclear policies after being the first country to suffer an atomic attack in 1945, now faces charges that it is keeping plutonium in reserve for its own security. Because of this, in the international arena, Japan's diplomacy is subject to question especially when it has joined the United States and South Korea in exerting substantial pressure on communist North Korea to open its nuclear facilities to full inspection.

When the screws are turned on North Korea to give up its controversial nuclear reprocessing plant because nuclear weapons could be developed, Pyongyang to the embarrassment of Tokyo likes to remind the world of the plutonium stockpile that Japan plans to accumulate. Hence this would [be] tantamount to exercising double standards in trying to police Kim Il-song's North Korea, in ensuring peace in the Korean peninsular, one of the potential flashpoints in the post-Cold War world.

The watchdog Atomic Energy Commission estimates that Japan would need 85 tonnes of plutonium by the year 2010. Twenty to 30 tonnes are scheduled for use in fast-breeder reactors which are designed to produce more fuel than they use and the rest is for conventional nuclear plants.

For more than 20 years, Japan has pursued research of fast-breeder reactors. Last May the prototype reactor Monju was completed and the 1.7 tonnes of plutonium onboard the Akatsuki Maru that left the the French port of Cherbourg on Nov 7, is to be used to produce reloading fuel for Monju.

Plutonium is one of the most toxic substances known in the world and a single microgramme smaller than a speck of pollen can cause fatal cancer if inhaled. It takes about 24,000 years before its radioactivity can be halved. Not occurring naturally, plutonium has been sought after for its fissionability. Enriched uranium has been the ordinary fuel for nuclear plants and plutonium continues to be the waste. (Japan has sent some of the waste products of its nuclear power plants along with nuclear waste purchased from the United States to reprocessing plants in Britain and France).

The fast-breeder reactor is a new kind of reactor that uses plutonium from reprocessed waste as its fuel, producing yet more fuel in the process. This is likened to burning gas and instead of getting carbon monoxide, one gets more gas as a by-product.

Several Asian nations, all of which carry painful memories of Japanese colonialism and militarism are openly suspicious of Japan's intentions and have suggested that even if the plutonium is intended strictly for a new generation of civilian fast-breeder reactors, as Japan insists, it places in Japanese hands, the raw materials to make a crude weapon. The 1.7 tonnes of plutonium shipped by the Akatsuki Maru is capable of producing 120 crude bombs. Certain uncalled for statements by ruling Liberal Democrat Party members certainly have not helped to diffuse fears in the region.

One Liberal Democrat was reported as having told the Japanese press that "it will be better for us not to give up the option of possessing nuclear weapons. With nuclear weapons in the background, Japan's diplomacy will be more powerful." Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore have publicly protested against the Akatsuki Maru passing through the busy Malacca Straits. Official protests against the Japanese government have also been lodged by Chile and Argentina, at the tip of the South American continent, and South Africa at the tip of the African continent. The furore is at least for three reasons: the possibility of theft of the plutonium by a power bent of using it in nuclear weapons; the possibility of fire and the release of plutonium particles into the atmosphere; the possibility of ship-wreck and the bursting under deep sea pressure of the steel containers in which the plutonium is stored.

Clearly plutonium is too dangerous to be transported by sea because the risks are just too great. Must the entire world hold its breath until the Akatsuki Maru reaches home safely? Until Japan can carry out its own reprocessing of spent uranium into plutonium on its own shores, it should do away with its fast-breeder reactors.

Prime Minister Discounts Criticism of Coalition

BK2211044492 Bangkok THE NATION in English 22 Nov 92 p A2

[Text] Prime Minister Chuan Likphai yesterday dismissed deputy Prime Minister Amnuai Wirawan's criticism that the coalition government lacked unity as each member was playing to the gallery.

"There is no such thing," Chuan said. "It's normal for the various parties to have different ideas regarding their own policy, but they have to adhere to the one set by the administration." Chuan said Amnuai, a non-MP [member of parliament] under the New Aspiration Party quota, might not have actually meant what newspapers reported and added that he did not believe Amnuai really made the remark as he had not heard it himself.

Chuan, talking to the press after participating in a merit making ceremony for those killed in the bloody May crisis, called on Cabinet members to refrain from making public criticism that could create conflicts within the coalition government.

The premier said it was unwise for Cabinet members to air conflicting views in public frequently. He added that they should discuss their ideas at Cabinet meetings.

Countering Amnuai's comment that the government's work was not progressmg because it was not courageous enough to exercise effective control of permanent officials, Chuan said the government was doing fine. But the fact was it did not have any budget as yet and had to wait for it before implementing its policies.

Meanwhile, Phalang Tham Party de facto leader Chamlong Simuang said yesterday he would attend a meeting of political party heads and secretaries general of the coalition scheduled for Tuesday.

Chamlong said he did not know if the meeting, at the invitation of Industry Minister and Democrat Party secretary general Sanan Kachonprasat, was aimed at settling conflicts within the coalition government.

"I don't know. You better ask the person who invited us," Chamlong said.

He said he would attend the meeting as Sanan's acquaintance, and not as party leader.

Chamlong refused to comment on the coalition administration, saying it might cause some problems if he made any remarks that could be distorted by the press.

Chamlong also declined to comment on Amnuai's criticism of the government and his party's proposal for gubernatorial elections upcountry.

Sanan said yesterday he was holding the meeting because coalition party chiefs had not met each other in the last two months. He dismissed rumours that the meeting was aimed at patching up differences within the coalition.

Deputy Interior Minister Suthat Ngoenmuen, a Democrat, said he did not think there was any conflict in the government, describing it as expressing a variety of opinions.

'Early Setback' to Plan To Censure Government

BK2311030992 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 23 Nov 92 p 1, 3

[Text] The Opposition's plan to file a no-confidence motion against the Government received an early setback yesterday as House Speaker Marut Bunnak said he was not sure if the motion could be debated during the current House session because the Parliament will go into recess in the middle of next month.

Two smaller Opposition parties—Seri Tham and Ratsadon—also expressed reservations about censuring the Government at this stage but would not reject the prospcct outright saying they will have to hear out other Opposition leaders at their meeting tomorrow before making a decision.

Mr Marut explained that the Government had to be consulted whether it is ready to face a no-confidence debate. If the Government was prepared then he will be happy to arrange a debate on the motion, he added.

He said even if the motion is submitted this week, it can be debated only in the middle of next month coinciding with the debate on the 1993 budget bill.

The House Speaker, however, maintained that the Opposition was entitled to submit a censure motion whenever it wanted but then the Government also had the right to say when it would be ready to face it.

"If the Government is ready to answer the motion in this House Session then I will go ahead. But from what I have been following, the Opposition will submit it in the next House session," Mr Marut said.

The House Speaker has the power to schedule a motion as he deems appropriate.

On Saturday, Chat Thai deputy leader Bun-ua Prasoesuwan, Chat Phatthana secretary-general Prachuap Chaiyasan and Muan Chon leader Pol Capt [Police Captain] Chaloem Yubamrung announced that they wanted to file a censure motion against the Chuan administration right away and would take up the matter with other Opposition leaders tomorrow.

Among the issues that they want to raise are the stock market manipulation and the allged links to government figures, the failure to provide public safety by citing the murder of a prostitute at the Songkhla provincial hall, and the failure to ensure peace at the border with neighbouring countries, particularly Cambodia.

Asked about the suggestion that the censure debate could be scheduled during the extraordinary House session to debate the Budget Bill, Mr Marut said that would depend on the timing. The special session will be held at the end of February or beginning of March next year and if the Government was ready then he would proceed accordingly, the Speaker said.

Meanwhile, Seri Tham Party leader Dr Athit Urairat distanced himself from Chat Phatthana when asked whether his party would join the move to censure the Government. He said he would wait for the outcome of the meeting of other Opposition leaders tomorrow before making any decision.

Dr Athit, whose party has eight MPs in Parliament, said he was very disappointed by the performance of the Chuan coalition because it's still lacking clear direction.

"But I will give the Government more time to run the country to prove itself. But at the same time we will have to listen to what other opposition parties have to say at Tuesday's meeting," he added.

Ratsadon leader Chaiphak Siriwat the party's sole MP in Parliament, said most of the Opposition leadership including Chat Thai leader Praman Adireksarn, Chat Phatthana leader Chatchai Chunhawan and Prachakon Thai leader Samak Sunthorawet, have always said that they wanted to give the Government some time and wait for the Budget Bill to pass before filing a censure motion.

But Mr Prachuap may be having some "good information" in announcing his plan to censure the Government immediately, Mr Chaiphak said.

He said the stock market manipulation was a potential dynamite and Opposition leaders have to be careful and try to gather as much evidence as possible.

"We can wait for the extraordinary session on the Budget Bill or even after April next year and raise the matter during an ordinary session," Mr Chaiphak said.

Commenting on the possible censure of his Government, Prime Minister Chuan Likphai said after returning from Chiang Mai last night that it was within the constitutional rights of the Opposition.

Asked if he did not think it was too early to censure his government, Mr Chuan said this was a matter of opinion. He declined to comment on the three issues that may be in the motion saying that he would comment once the motion has been filed.

Asked about Mr Prachuap's criticism of him and his government, Mr Chuan retorted: "I pity Mr Prachuap because he did not get what he wished. He said that this Government would not last three months."

Mr Prachuap said on Saturday that ever since his days at the Democrat Party he had never thought that Mr Chuan had in him what it takes to become a prime minister because he lacked charisma and the clout required to shoulder such an important job.

Editorial Views Opposition Plan

BK2311031792 Bangkok THE NATION in English 23 Nov 92 p A6

[Editorial: "Chuan and Partners Must Work as a Team"]

[Text] Talk of some opposition leaders about censuring the Chuan Cabinet next month is just an empty threat. The opposition cannot realistically hope to squeeze a no-confidence motion into the packed schedule of the House of Representatives before the end of year recess.

In fact the opposition doesn't need to move such a motion—which usually takes weeks to reach the floor—if it simply wants to hold the government coalition accountable for some pressing problems. The House is going to debate the budget bill in mid-December and there will be ample opportunity for all opposition MPs [members of parliament] to find fault with every Cabinet member and criticize every budget allocation.

The government hopes to get initial-House approval for the budget bill on Dec 17, the last House meeting day in this session, and to re-submit a revised version of the bill for the second and final readings in an extraordinary House meeting next February. If the opposition really feels it has enough political ammunition to hurt the Chuan Cabinet, then it can try for a no-confidence debate during the February meeting. But, admittedly, House Speaker Marut Bunnak has a final say on whether the special meeting will deal with anything other than the budget.

Opposition leaders who meet tomorrow to examine the situation should realise there is no need to rush a no-confidence motion. They can wait for the next parliamentary session, which starts in May. Since only 72 MPs (one-fifth of the total) are needed to endorse a no-confidence motion, the opposition's 153 MPs can be divided into two groups and submit two separate censure motions next year. This should be adequate to keep all ministers on their toes throughout most of next year.

Premier Chuan Likphai, on the other hand, seems quite concerned about persistent reports of bickering among the partners in his five-party coalition. As leader of the Democrat Party he has called a private meeting of leaders of the other four government parties tomorrow to discuss way to improve their collective image and teamwork. What they urgently need is to co-ordinate the political activities of their parties, especially when they directly clash with the stated policy of the government.

They should also learn to work together as a team. Being in the same coalition they sink or swim together. Leaders of government parties who are not on the Cabinet, particularly Phalang Tham's Maj Gen Chamlong Simuang and Social Action's Montri Phongphanit, should also learn to follow coalition etiquette and avoid trying to score political points at the expense of the government to which their parties still belong.

So far the opposition could only cite general problems—threats to public safety, political instability inside the government coalition, government clumsiness in tackling stock manipulation, and border lawlessness—in their criticism of the Chuan Cabinet. There is still no accusation of abuse of power or corruption.

This is why some of the more cool-headed opposition leaders want to wait for a better opportunity before attacking the Cabinet head- on.

The Chuan Cabinet may not have made any serious mistakes, but it has yet to achieve anything of significance either. Premier Chuan's standard excuse for the doldrums is that his government has to operate on a budget designed by its predecessor and thus many of its new projects have to be held back pending appropriation of funds in the new budget next February.

However there are many things that the government can do now without additional resources, like cracking down on stock manipulators and their high-level accomplices, and making all coalition partners think and work as a team. Most importantly, Premier Chuan and the leaders of the other four government parties have yet to convince the opposition and the public that they are determined to stay and work together on a long-term basis—and that their coalition is not going to break apart in the immediate future.

Vietnam

Hanoi Radio Reports Kerry's 18 Nov News Briefing

BK2011164192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Report on U.S. Senator John Kerry's statement at news conference on the POW/MIA issue in Hanoi on 18 November—Kerry speaks in English fading into Vietnamese translation]

[Text] A U.S. Senate delegation led by Mr. John Kerry, chairman of the U.S. Senate Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs, recently visited Vietnam to conduct research and study documents related to Americans missing or killed in action during the Vietnam war. After three days of successful work, Mr. John Kerry held an international news conference in Hanoi on 18 November to make public the results of his work and answer questions raised by reporters of various news and press agencies.

The following is the contents of Mr. John Kerry's statement at the news conference:

The United States Senate Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs has the responsibility of explaining to the American people the truth about the MIA/POW issue. This question of Americans missing in action in Vietnam is the greatest obstacle in the process of normalizing relations between the two countries of the United States and Vietnam.

We came here to Vietnam a few days ago to accelerate the process of finding the truth about the fate of Americans missing in action in Vietnam. This is of significant importance for the entire American people, particularly those families with relatives missing in action. With the data found in Vietnam, we will be able to give more specific answers to questions raised by the American people and by the relatives of missing Americans.

We have had a meeting with President Le Duc Anh. At this meeting, we handed him a letter from U.S. President Bush. We cannot reveal the detailed contents of this letter. In the letter, President Bush expressed his hope that we have an historic opportunity to accelerate the process of normalizing relations between the two countries and that Vietnam's acts of goodwill and ever-better cooperation will be met with reciprocity from the U.S. side.

President Le Duc Anh will also write a reply letter to U.S. President Bush and will give it to us prior to our departure from Vietnam so we can hand it over to Mr. Bush. Although we do not know the contents of the letter, we think that it will be very significant.

Now I would like to recall some work we have done in the past few days. We have had many very significant meetings. We have sat down together in the museum of the Vietnamese People's Army [VPA] in Hanoi and talked to a VPA colonel about the fate of American soldiers killed during the war. The colonel, who is also the procurator of the museum, gave us documents related to the death of these American soldiers. We were surrounded by many artifacts of war. We also visited the inner citadel of Hanoi, looking at some areas that Americans have never before seen, and even spontaneously visited some Vietnamese families to seek to understand matters related to rumors about Americans still being detained in Vietnam. These Vietnamese families were gracious enough to receive us. There was no evidence of any Americans still being detained in the areas where we visited. We also received some documents related to the Americans missing in action.

I can cite here some other results. That is, we have discussed many available documents on Americans missing in action. We have reached a concrete, mutual agreement on ensuring investigations into the possibility of live Americans in Vietnam and we will finalize this task before 10 December. We have also discussed with one another how to exploit to the fullest those documents that have been kept in archives.

During a meeting with President Le Duc Anh, we received permission from his excellency the president to begin a process of direct contacts between American war veterans and ex-soldiers of the Vietnamese People's Army to talk about the fate of Americans missing in action in Vietnam. It can be said that our work has made a leap forward. I must say a leap forward rather than a step forward because there are efforts from many components, including our select committee, as well as efforts and goodwill cooperation from the Vietnamese Government and efforts from the U.S. executive body. All these have paved the way for the reestablishment of relations between the two countries. The cooperation given by Vietnam is not momentary but rather long-term cooperation—that is something the U.S. Government should know. An example of this is that on 12 December, we will together conduct a large-scale search. Only a year ago, we had no evidence on MIA's, nor any permanent officials in Hanoi or in various archives, nor any documents with which to study reports on live sightings of Americans, and so on. Now we have all these things. This is significant progress. But it can be said that we have not yet reached the ultimate goal, that is, to fully reestablish relations between the two countries. I hope that this day is not far away.

Communique Issued on Lao President's Death

BK2211153592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 22 Nov 92

[Special communique of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, the president of the state, the National Assembly Standing Committee, the government, and the Vietnam Fatherland Front Central Committee on the death of Laotian President Kaysone Phomvihan]

[Text] The Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee, the president of the state of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the National Assembly Standing Committee, the SRV Government, and the Vietnam Fatherland Front [VFF] Central Committee announce with deep sorrow:

Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, chairman of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee and president of the state of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] passed away at the age of 72 from illness at 1123 on 21 November in Vientiane, Laos.

The demise of Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan is an extremely great loss to the LPRP and the Lao people of all nationalities and also to the CPV, the Vietnamese people, and comrades and friends all over the world.

The LPRP, the Lao state, and the Lao people of all nationalities have lost an outstanding leader, a stalwart revolutionary fighter, and a devoted son. The international communist and worker's movement, the national liberation movement, and the world peace movement have lost a staunch fighter. The CPV and the Vietnamese people have lost a great and close friend.

Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan led an active revolutionary life closely linked with the history of the long-lasting, arduous, yet glorious struggle of the Lao people of all nationalities. He helped advance Laos along the people's democratic path aimed at building and developing Laos into a peaceful, independent, and prosperous nation.

For nearly 40 years, together with the Lao party and people, in his position as general secretary and chairman of the LPRP Central Committee, and as head of the Lao Government and state, Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan devoted all his talent, wisdom, and efforts to overcoming all difficulties and trials to achieve a glorious victory in the struggle of the Lao people of all nationalities in the past and the renovation process at present.

Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan always treasured, studied, and applied President Ho Chi Minh's thinking and virtues to his revolutionary activities.

Over the past several decades, he acheived great merit in building and fostering the close relations between Laos and Vietnam and in strengthening the special solidarity and comprehensive cooperation between the two countries. The CPV and the Vietnamese state and people bear in mind Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan's sentiments and great contributions to the Vietnamese revolution, as well as to the special solidarity and friendship between Laos and Vietnam.

With deep sorrow and gratitude to Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, and acting in line with venerated President Ho Chi Minh's teachings, our entire party and people pledge the determination to do all they can to foster the special friendship and comprehensive cooperation between Vietnam and Laos. We are strongly convinced that under the leadership of the LPRP and the LPDR state, the Lao people of all nationalities will rally around the LPRP Central Committee, turn sorrow into strength, duly carry on Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan's glorious untertaking, satisfactorily implement the resolution of the Fifth LPRP Congress, and successfully turn the comprehensive, principled renovative line initiated by President Kaysone Phomvihan into reality.

Our entire party and people, with boundless grief, show respect and say farewell to Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan. His name and cause will live forever in the hearts of Vietnamese communists and people.

The CPV Central Committee, the president of the state of the SRV, the National Assembly Standing Committee, the SRV Government, and the VFF Central Committee.

Further Reportage on War Veteran's Congress

'Part One' of Do Muoi's Speech

BK2011150592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 19 Nov 92

["Part one" of speech delivered by party General Secretary Do Muoi at the 19 November opening of the First National Congress of the Vietnam War Veterans' Association—read by announcer]

[Text] Dear Comrade Pham Van Dong and Comrade Vo Chi Cong, advisers to the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee:

I would like to extend my warm welcome to all delegates to the First National Congress of the Vietnam War Veterans' Association. And through you, I also would like to convey the cordial and solicitous regards of the party Central Committee to all disabled and sick soldiers and families of fallen heroes.

At this solemn and happy movement of our get-together today, we join together to remember our esteemed Uncle

Ho, the founder of our Armed Forces, who taught the Armed Forces to be loyal to the country and faithful to the people, to fulfill all assigned missions, to overcome all difficulties, and to defeat all enemies.

We remember those fallen heroes who came from the people and worked for the sake of the people and who dedicated themselves to and sacrificed themselves for the fatherland's independence and freedom.

The history of our people's long and extremely heroic revolutionary struggle and war of resistance spanning more than six decades has further brightened up the heroic and indomitable tradition of our people and Army, to which the existing contingent of war veterans has made important contributions.

Vietnamese war veterans of various generations—including those who joined the Red Guards during the 1930-31 Soviet Nghe Tinh Movement, those who joined the Armed Forces during the Pre-Uprising period, those who fought and matured during the wars of resistance for national salvation and during the war for national defense, and those who once carried out their internationalist obligations—have, for the most part, been trained into staunch fighters. They have dedicated their lives to the revolutionary undertaking of the party and the nation.

While in the Army, you experienced tough ordeals, were steeled in the struggle, and accumulated many valuable experiences in combat and in all domains of life—military, political, scientific, technological, economic, cultural, and artistic.

After fulfilling your glorious duties in the revolutionary Armed Forces, you have returned to the rear to rejoin your families or have been transfered to work at various administrative units or in various economic, cultural, and scientific branches. Whenever you stay and whatever positions or jobs you hold, the absolute majority of war veterans have always striven to develop the tradition of the heroic Vietnamese People's Army and to hold high your revolutionary determination and enthusiasm in contributing to the people and the country. You have made up an important force in building and defending the fatherland. From among war veterans, many good examples have existed and this has won the people's applause.

Since its founding, the Vietnam War Veterans' Association, led by the party, has achieved rapid growth nationwide and has become a mass organization in the all-people unity bloc and a component part of the Vietnam Fatherland Front.

The First National Congress of Vietnam War Veterans' Association held in Hanoi today is an important event that serves as a landmark for the association's rapid and steady growth.

Over the past two years, the association has worked actively and has therefore affirmed its worthy role in the common cause. Various organizations of the association at the infrastrucutre have kept themselves well informed of the political tasks of the localities concerned and have participated in building and consolidating these localities in all areas, especially in national defense and security, thus helping maintain political stability and public order and safety.

Many organizations of the association at the infrastructure have cooperated with other mass organizations, schools, and public organs in helping teach the younger generation to take up and develop their forebears' tradition of national construction and defense, to clearly affirm their revolutionary ideal and their responsibility in the cause of national construction and defense, and at the same time, to actively participate in the struggle against negative practices and social injustices.

On behalf of the party Central Committee, I warmly commend the Vietnam War Veterans' Association and war veterans nationwide for these achievements. You, comrades, are very worthy of the love and trust of our party, state, and people.

Dear comrades: Your congress is taking place amid an eventful, fast-changing world situation. Domestically, following the Sixth and Seventh National Party Congresses, the renovation undertaking has achieved initial, very important results. However, numerous difficulties continue to exist. The country is still in the state of poverty and backwardness. We are facing many major challenges while enjoying many great advantages and opportunities.

Capitalizing on our difficulties, hostile forces have constantly carried out sabotage activities in the hope of doing away with the party's leadership role, with national independence, and the socialist regime which our people are building. Faced with this situation, together with the entire party, people, and army, war veterans and the war veterans' association should develop the tradition of the Vietnamese People's Army by translating revolutionary heroism in the struggle for national salvation into one in building and defending the socialist fatherland, protecting the party and the revolutionary administration, and surging forward to outstandingly fulfill all missions in the new stage.

The more difficulty we endured in overcoming ordeals, the more efforts we should make to place our confidence in the revolutionary ideal. We must take the national independence, the people's happiness, and the building of Vietnam into a socialist, prosperous, and modern country as our lifetime struggle objectives. These are the thoughts and great desire of esteemed beloved Uncle Ho and the aspirations of our people and all Vietnamese patriots. We must strive to uphold President Ho Chi Minh's concepts, taking Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh thought as a basis for formulating the program of action while striving to turn this thought into reality.

To carry out these lofty objectives, our people—under the party leadership—are striving to implement the renovation undertaking in a comprehensive and extensive manner, with priority given to the economic renovation and with positive and firm steps taken to release and develop the labor force. We are also striving to practice thrift to save money for investment, exploit all energy and creativity of our people, strive to make the people rich and the nation powerful, increase national economic growth, enhance the people's education background and physical fitness, develop Vietnamese culture, protect the environment, and ensure social justice.

We must also strive to step-by-step change our political system, revamp the party to enhance its leadership in the new stage, broaden democracy, develop the people's rights to collective mastery, strengthen role of mass organizations, build the Vietnamese law-governed state, maintain social order and discipline, preserve and develop the traditional ethical values and national characteristics, while striving to absorb the quintessence of mankind's civilization.

To develop success in electing deputies of the Ninth National Assembly, we are urgently institutionalizing the 1992 SRV Constitution in a renovative spirit and content. We are implementing the open-door foreign policy with diversified activities involving the party, state, and mass organizations and societies. It is necessary to stress that Vietnam wants to befriend all countries in the world community for peace, independence, and development on the basis of respect for one another's national independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, equality, and mutual interests. Our correct foreign policy has produced fruitful results and has received warm support from countries, international organizations, and peoples all over the world.

These abovementioned tasks are very great and they demand utmost efforts by our entire party, Armed Forces, and people. To contribute to satisfactorily carrying out these tasks, we must strive to learn our new duties. Each of you comrades must make great efforts to study and enhance your capability, consistently stay close to realities, and make yourself informed of new scientific-technological advances through modern information channels. This is the best way to renovate yourself and through this, you will be able to contribute to renovating the nation and society.

The contingent of war veterans are those who have fought and made every sacrifice to the country. The people are feeling deeply indebted to them and are doing all they can to be worthy of such sacrifices. The party and state will supplement and amend various inappropriate policies and systems with an aim to satisfactorily meet the aspirations of war veterans. For their part, war veterans must strive to enhance their quality and ethics, set a good example for the others, refrain from adopting subjectivism and officialdom especially when our country is still poor.

You comrades used to be the assault soldiers in various battlefields in the past, now you must act as assault combatants in various tasks, in productive labor, and in social activities. You must strive to become the nucleus of the bloc of national unity as President Ho Chi Minh wished—the nucleus to unite all ethnic groups, all social strata, all religions and generations and to unite the people in the country and Vietnamese compatriots abroad—so as to create a great strength of the nation to carry out various great, important tasks to achieve the lofty goal of our country's revolution.

'Remaining Part' of Speech

BK2211091592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 19 Nov 92

["Remaining part" of speech delivered by party General Secretary Do Muoi at the 19 November opening of the First National Congress of Delegates of the Vietnam War Veterans' Association—read by announcer]

[Text] Dear comrades, the VWVA must strive to build itself into a large, strong people's organization. Its duties are to educate and to mobilize the membership and all war veterans and their families, as well as all levels of the public, to strive to triumphantly implement various resolutions of the party, to abide seriously by the state law, to maintain social order and discipline, and to fulfill satisfactorily socioeconomic, security, and national defense tasks. Various VWVA organizations at the grassroots level must firmly grasp the political activities in localities, coordinate with other mass organizations to strengthen and make localities firm and strong in all aspects, and continue to contribute efforts to the struggle against negativism and social unjustice. Moreover, they must resolutely oppose the enemy's scheme of multifaceted sabotage, contribute to stabilizing the political situation, and ensure social order and safety in localities.

The scale of organization and activities of the VWVA will be increasingly expanded. As a result, it is required that the association be a highly qualified organization able to develop its role in promoting relations with other mass organizations, echelons, and sectors, while satisfactorily carrying out activities at home and step by step expanding international cooperation.

The VWVA must strengthen its positive role in coordinating with localities, the Ministry of Education and Training, the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union, and other related organizations in order to organize training courses for youths and teenagers to help them absorb and develop our nation's glorious tradition, to encourage the youths to appreciate the revolutionary achievements, and to make them proud of the nation's glorious history, thereby promoting the youths' confidence in the revolutionary ideal.

The VWVA must pay attention to guiding war veterans to consistently enhance their ideological background and concept, to grasp firmly the party lines and policies, to abide by the state law, and to study the state's new policies in order to effectively contribute to implementing the renovation undertaking.

When they return to the civil life, many of the veterans do not have any professional skills. As a result, the VWVA should help them to acquire new skills and jobs, motivate them to participate in the economic, cultural, and social development programs and the activities of the administration and mass organizations in localities so as to help them quickly reintegrate to society and lead a new life, improve their family conditions, and contribute to building the more beautiful society. The VWVA must create favorable conditions for its members and all war veterans in order to develop a family-based economy, to overcome difficulties step by step, and to gradually stabilize and improve their standard of living. The association must consistently improve its members' spiritual and material life, protect their legitimate rights, and promote the relations of love and comradeship among its member so as to make them willingly help one another in time of difficulty. Echelons of cadres of the association are those who used to hold command positions at various armed forces units; thus, they know how to manage and supervise military work. However, they should study more to improve the tasks and duties of the VWVA and to meet the requirements of the party's mass mobilization task.

Various echelons of the party must help the VWVA to carry out its work and activities in order to support the party political task in localities and create favorable conditions for the VWVA to fulfill this task. Various party and state agencies concerned must help the association to develop its organization, to formulate appropriate policy toward cadres, and to create an active working atmosphere among its members to suit the conditions and characteristics of the VWVA. Efforts must be made to build a working mechanism between the VWVA and state agencies and mass organizations and societies in the framework of the Vietnamese political system.

Dear comrades, the coming into being of the VWVA has added yet another strong member to the Vietnam Fatherland Front and another core force to our nation's mass movement. This has strengthened our all-people great unity bloc to triumphantly fulfill all revolutionary tasks set by the Seventh CPV Congress.

On the basis of applying experiences drawn during the past two years, I hope that the First National Congress of Delegates of the VWVA will be able to clearly define the association's role, duties, objectives, orientations, and activities for the days ahead. I am convinced that the association will sucessfully formulate good measures to satisfactorily and consistently develop the quality of Uncle Ho's soldiers, and will be able to maintain its role as a reliable organization of the party, state, and people.

I wish all delegates good health and the congress splendid success.

Congress Continues

BK2311101592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] This morning, 20 November, the First National Congress of Delegates of the Vietnam War Veterans Association [VWVA] continued its work at the Ba Dinh Conference Hall in Hanoi.

The congress heard Comrade Pham Van Dong, adviser to the party Central Committee, deliver a speech urging the VWVA to clearly realize its role and duty in the new revolutionary stage so as to formulate a concrete plan of action and to strive to cooperate with other mass organizations and the Vietnam Fatherland Front to carry out tasks under the party leadership. He said that all war veterans and their organizations must strive to score new achievements in the present national construction work. Comrade Pham Van Dong urged the VWVA to strive to strengthen its internal unity, promote its relations with other mass organizations and the people, and uphold the quality of Uncle Ho's soldiers.

Afterward, the congress heard a report by delegates from the War Veterans Associations of Hanoi Municipality, Hue City, and Tuyen Quang, Dac Lac, Hai Hung, and Tay Ninh Provinces, contributing ideas to the VWVA report on orientations and tasks for the days ahead.

Also at this morning's session, Comrade Nguyen Trong Dung, on behalf of the congress presidium, read a draft of the VWVA Statute. Afterward, the congress voted to approve the draft statute.

The congress welcomed a delegation of students from the Nguyen Van Troi School who came to the conference hall to greet delegates to the congress.

President Elected

BK2011144992 Hanoi VNA in English 1418 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 20—Senior Lieutenant General Tran Van Quang was elected president of the Vietnamese War Veterans' Association (VWVA) at the closing session of its first national congress today.

A 75-member central committee of the association was also elected with Senior Lieutenant-General Tran Van Tra, Lieutenant-General Nguyen Don, and Major General Nguyen Trong Vinh, as vice-presidents, and Major General Le Thanh as general secretary.

At the closing meeting, the congress unanimously elected by show of hands and applause four-star General Vo Nguyen Giap as honorary president of the VWVA.

Congress Closes 20 Nov

BK2211143792 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Report by station correspondent Dinh Khai on the closing session of the first national congress of delegates of the Vietnam War Veterans Association in Hanoi on 20 November—portions recorded]

[Summary] "Dear friends: The first national congress of delegates of the Vietnam War Veterans Association [VWVA] took place from 19-20 November at the Ba Dinh Conference Hall in Hanoi. The congress worked urgently and seriously according to the motto: renovation, democracy, solidarity, efficiency, and thrift. The delegates assessed the VWVA's organization and activities over the past two years and more; drew experiences; set forth orientations, tasks, and operating procedures for the 1992-97 period; adopted the VWVA's official statute; and elected its central committee, first term.

"The congress held its closing session this afternoon, 20 November. On behalf of the presidium, Senior Lieutenant General Tran Van Tra expressed the desire of delegates and all association members to elect General Vo Nguyen Giap as honorary president of the VWVA. Everyone in the conference hall gave Gen. Vo Nguyen Giap a standing ovation. Moved by such profound expressions of comradeship and by the congress's trust, Gen. Vo Nguyen Giap accepted the offer, expressed his thanks, and pledged his determination to fulfill his responsibility toward the VWVA."

"On behalf of the presidium, Sen. Lt. Gen. Tran Van Tra read the congress's draft resolution, pointing out the orientations and tasks of the VWVA in the days ahead. Next, the delegates adopted the draft resolution. On behalf of the presidium, Comrade Nguyen Trong Vinh read a letter of the VWVA, first term, to the Vietnam Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee. The letter read in part:

[Begin Nguyen Trong Vinh recording] "Dear members of the party Central Committee: The congress is pleased to note that the party-initiated renovation undertaking has achieved very important initial results. The congress is also aware of the great difficulties that our country still has to face. Greater efforts are needed to get rid of many vices. In the meantime, the enemy has tried by all means to oppose us. The factor of instability still exists.

"Forged by the struggle for national independence and freedom, as well as by the sense of internationalist duty, and thanks to the intensive education provided by the party and Army, we war veterans pledge our determination to rally around the party; work together with the entire people to implement the line of the Seventh party Congress; fulfill all tasks set forth by the party and state; resolutely safeguard all revolutionary gains; defend the party; protect the fatherland's territorial integrity; persist in the socialist way chosen by our party, Uncle Ho, and people; oppose any calls for political pluralism and a multiparty opposition system, as well as other propaganda maneuvers and acts of sabotage; and make joint efforts with our Army and people nationwide to foil the peaceful evolution strategy of the hostile forces.

"Whatever circumstances they may find themselves in—discharged, transferred to other sectors, or retired—war veterans pledge their determination to carry on our Army's traditions of faithfulness to the party; loyalty to the people; readiness to fight and make sacrifices for the sake of national independence and freedom; and willingness to fulfill all tasks, overcome all difficulties, and defeat all enemies, thus proving themselves always worthy of being called Uncle Ho's soldiers." [applause] [end Nguyen Trong Vinh recording]

"Next, on behalf of the electoral committee, Comrade Tran Nhat Quang read the results of the election of the central committee of the VWVA, first term. The central committee consists of 75 comrades, including 15 members of the standing committee. The central committee elected Sen Lt. Gen. Tran Van Quang as president of the VWVA. Sen. Lt. Gen. Tran Van Tra, Lt. Gen. Nguyen Don, and Major General Nguyen Trong Vinh were elected vice presidents. Comrade Maj. Gen. Le Thanh was elected as general secretary of the VWVA, first term.

"On behalf of the executive committee of the VWVA, first term, Sen. Lieut. Gen. Tran Van Quang, president of the association, expressed his thanks to the congress for its trust."

"After the executive committee of the VWVA, first term, was introduced to the congress, the delegates heard Comrade Vice President Nguyen Don who read the congress' letter to members of the VWVA nationwide, urging all of them to develop the revolutionary tradition and contribute to national construction in accordance with the renovative line patterned after the resolutions of the CPV, thus proving themselves always worthy of being called Uncle Ho's soldiers."

"Comrade Sen. Lt. Gen. Song Hao delivered the closing speech, declaring the conclusion of the first national congress of delegates of the VWVA, first term."

Australia

U.S. Offer of NAFTA Associate Membership Rejected

BK2311074892 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 23 Nov 92

[Text] Australia has rejected an American proposal to join the North American Free Trade Area, NAFTA, as an associate member. Foreign Minister Gareth Evans said it would not be in Australia's interest to have such membership with NAFTA, which currently covers the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

President Bush has already suggested that NAFTA could have a number of Asian-Pacific associate members, such as Australia, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, and South Korea.

Speaking in Sydney, Senator Evans said such membership will do little to increase trade with the Asian trading partners on which Australia was becoming increasingly dependent. At the same time, Australia did not want to be placed in a position where its interest was sharply divided between trade allies of the United States and trade allies of Japan.

Senator Evans said Australia could expect strong competition from the United States for Asian trade under the new president, President Bill Clinton. He said that although Mr. Clinton appeared to be a free trader, he also called himself a fair trader:

[Begin Evans recording] And in the United States' parlance, that means we certainly will see the Clinton administration pushing harder for greater direct access to markets of Japan, China, and other East Asian economies, not ruling out in the process the use of any of the resources of the American trade armory, Section 301, Super 301, or any other forms of trade harassment. [end recording]

Minister: GATT Agreement 'Hugely Important'

BK2111101492 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 21 Nov 92

[Text] Australia's Primary Industry Minister Simon Crean says the historic GATT trade agreement is the breakthrough Australia has been looking for. He said Australian farmers will be able to now look to the future with confidence as the agreement has the potential to fuel a significant Australian and world economic recovery.

[Begin Crean recording] Well, hugely important. I mean it is important not only to Australia but to those countries with the heavy commodity subsidy because what it really means is there would be much freer flow of those trade items and of course countries like those who are the efficient producers of that commodity would stand to benefit enormously from it. [end recording]

Minister Notes France Alone in GATT Fight

BK2311091692 Hong Kong AFP in English 0252 GMT 23 NOV 92

[Text] Sydney, Nov 23 (AFP)—France is likely to continue to fight agricultural reforms under GATT, but will do so without the support of the E.C., Australia's trade minister said here Monday.

"The French are going to pursue the political resistance right to the death knock, but I don't think they'll be getting much support for that, certainly not in the wider international community," Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister Gareth Evans. [sentence as received]

"All the evidence is that the rest of the European Community has also pretty well run out of patience with them," Evans told the Australian Broadcasting Corp.

"I think the only basis on which the French might be minded to really push this to the wall within the community would be with German support, but I don't think that's likely to be forthcoming at this stage," he said.

E.C. and U.S. negotiators on Friday ended their differences on oilseeds that had threatened a trade war and announced agreement on a wider package of farm subsidy cuts.

The E.C. will cut the volume of subsidised exports under the deal for wheat and other farm commodities by 21 percent over six years starting in 1994.

Evans said the deal was a "marginally more generous" outcome for the Europeans but also unblocked the seven-year-old Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) negotiations and opened the way for agreement in other areas such as services, intellectual property and manufacturing.

For Australia, a successful end to the round next year could be worth up to one billion Australian dollars (690 million U.S.) a year in exports and would provide a boost in confidence for world trade generally, Evans said.

Prime Minister Paul Keating said at the weekend the agreement between the United States and the E.C. was the best trade news in a decade.

"The whole backdrop in trade in agricultural products worldwide will have changed for Australian farmers," he said.

Evans Wants Expansion of 5-Power Defense Pact

BK2011055092 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] Australia's foreign minister, Senator Gareth Evans, says he would like to see the eventual expansion of the Five Power Defense Arrangement to include other countries. Members of the regional defense arrangement are Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia, Singapore, and Britain.

Speaking in Wellington where he is having talks with New Zealand Government ministers, Sen. Evans said

Australia regarded the Five-Power Defense Arrangement as continuing to play an important role in regional security. He said that while the continuing inclusion of Britain in the arrangement was probably a reflection of earlier history rather than contemporary reality, he believed the arrangement was working well and would take no sense to disband it. The foreign minister said he would like to see the agreement expanded to include other nations.

On defense ties between Australia and New Zealand, Sen. Evans said Australia would like New Zealand to buy a further two naval frigates from Australia. He said that if there were four of the frigates, New Zealand will be able to make a substantial contribution to regional defense.

New Zealand opposition Labor Party said if it wins the next election, it will not go beyond the purchase of two frigates and that the level of advanced technology in these vessels might be reduced to save money.

Rallies Held Over Timorese Leader's Arrest

BK2111085492 Hong Kong AFP in English 0654 GMT 21 NOV 92

[Text] Melbourne, Australia, Nov 21 (AFP)—The family of detained East Timor Fretilin resistance leader Jose Xanana Gusmao here Saturday called on the Australian government to seek his expeditious release.

Gusmao's 21 year-old son, Nito, who lives here with his mother, Emilia, and 18 year-old sister Zenilda, stood outside the Indonesian Embassy here in torrential rain protesting over Indonesia's arrest on Friday morning of Gusmao.

Nito Gusmao called on the Australian Government to take quick and effective action to secure the release of his father.

He also called on Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans to guarantee the protection of his father under international law.

The Melbourne protest was among a series of rallies held throughout Australia's major cities calling for action against Indonesia.

A spokesman for Fretilin, Francisco Pang, said here Australia should follow the example of the United Nations, France and Portugal in condemning Indonesia's capture of Gusmao.

In Sydney, 50 members of the East Timorese community protested outside the Indonesian consulate.

East Timor Relief Association director Agio Pereira told the gathering: "It (Gusmao's arrest) means that the voice of every man, woman and child of East Timor that fights against occupation has been imprisoned.

"It also means our national leader has been captured by the enemy and it means that we have to come out and show the world that contrary to what the Indonesian military wants we won't be silent," Pereira said.

Pereira said Saturday's rally was the beginning of a new campaign against what he called the Indonesian occupation of East Timor, and the provocative arrest of the 45-year-old resistance leader.

"It was a shock, many people cried, many people were in suspense without knowing what to do because it is like arresting every single person in East Timor," he said.

"The Timorese know very well the practises of the Indonesian military, and the immediate reaction is there's going to be torture, he's going to be subjected to inhumane means so they can get information."

"I think the Australian Government must understand the realities of East Timorese people.

"East Timor has been shut off from the rest of the world and it is for all practical purposes the biggest prison in the world."

In Adelaide, a rally on the steps of South Australia's Parliament House called on the Australian Government to help free Gusmao.

South Australia's Campaign for an Independent East Timor spokesman Andrew Alcock said Gusmao's arrest was a tragedy, as he was to be involved in peace negotiations between Indonesia and Portugal early next year.

Alcock said the gathering, which attracted representatives from churches, unions and human rights groups, called on the Australian government to ensure Gusmao's safety and to offer him asylum in Australia.

"It's now time for our leaders to stop their low-key approach to East Timor and be more positive and bold in supporting human rights," he said.

"We've also sent faxes to Amnesty International's London office and the United Nations office on behalf of the Campaign (for an Independent East Timor).

In Canberra, Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans said late Saturday that he welcomed assurances from Indonesian officials that Gusmao would not be ill-treated.

Evans said in a statement that the Indonesian government had confirmed the Fretilin leader had been captured in East Timor, was being held in Dili and was "safe."

He said he had telephoned the Australian ambassador in Jakarta, Philip Flood, and requested he contact Indonesian authorities and ask that Gusmao be accorded due process under Indonesian law.

Evans said Flood had requested that any formal charges be laid without delay, that Gusmao be provided with legal representation and that he not be ill-treated.

"I have now been advised by our ambassador that he has been expressly assured, at senior ministerial level, that Gusmao will be treated in accordance with Indonesian law and that he will not be ill-treated," he said. "I very much welcome these assurances."

"The (Australian) government has long emphasised to the Indonesian authorities the need for a longer term process of reconciliation between the government of Indonesia and the people of East Timor and we will continue to do so," he said.